

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, April 13, 2013



This photo provided by the Christiansburg Police Department shows Neil Allan MacInnis, of Christiansburg, Va.

Associated Press

Student charged in mall shootings; 2 wounded

CHRISTIANSBURG, Virginia (AP) — An 18-year-old college student was charged Friday with shooting and wounding two women at a mall branch of a southwest Virginia community college before he was subdued, the city's police chief said.

Neil Allan MacInnis faces two counts each of malicious wounding and using a firearm in the commission of a felony stemming from the shooting at the satellite campus of New River Community College at New River Valley Mall, Christiansburg Police Chief Mark Sisson said Friday night.

MacInnis, who was a student at the community college, was being held without bond at the Montgomery County Jail.

Sisson said authorities were still trying to establish a motive and any connection between MacInnis and the victims, who were hospitalized following the shooting in this town of approximately 21,000, less than 10 miles (16 kilometers) from Blacksburg, home to Virginia Tech.

Continued on Page 2



In this March 25, 2013 file photo, Kris Kitko leads chants of protest at an abortion-rights rally at the state Capitol in Bismarck, N.D. Rival legal teams, each well-financed and highly motivated, are girding for high-stakes court battles over the coming months on laws enacted in Arkansas and North Dakota that would impose the nation's toughest bans on abortion. The Arkansas law, approved March 6 when legislators overrode a veto by Democratic Gov. Mike Beebe, would ban most abortions from the 12th week of pregnancy onward. On March 26, North Dakota went even further, with Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple signing a measure that would ban abortions as early as six weeks into a pregnancy, when a fetal heartbeat can first be detected.

Associated Press

N. Dakota moves forward on strictest abortion laws

Associated Press

BISMARCK, North Dakota (AP) — North Dakota moved closer Friday to having the strictest abortion laws in the U.S., with its House of Representatives approving a measure that would outlaw the procedure after 20 weeks of pregnancy based on the disputed premise that at that point a fetus can feel pain.

The conservative rural state is aiming to challenge the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 1973 that legalized abortion up until viability, usually at 22 to 24 weeks. Abortion remains one of the most sensitive issues in the U.S., and con-

servative lawmakers have been trying for years to restrict access to the procedure by various means in several states.

At least 10 states have passed bills banning abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy on the premise that a fetus can feel pain at that stage, but research is split on the theory.

North Dakota's Legislature is taking several routes to restrict access to abortions. Abortion rights advocates say the state's laws are unconstitutional, and they have promised a legal fight that they say will be long, costly and unwinnable for the state.

Rep. Gail Mooney, op-

posed the latest measure and said the state has already made its point that it's anti-abortion.

"The question needs to be asked: How many more do we need?" she said.

State lawmakers last month also passed a resolution defining life as starting at conception, essentially banning abortion in the state. The measure is likely to come before voters in November 2014.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple has already signed into law a measure that bans abortions when a heartbeat can be detected, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy and before some women even know they're

pregnant.

That's even more restrictive than a new Arkansas law, approved March 6, that would ban most abortions from the 12th week of pregnancy onward. Both Arkansas and North Dakota are trying to set themselves up for a challenge to the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

Dalrymple has acknowledged that heartbeat measure's chances of surviving a court challenge are questionable, but he has said it's worth the eventual cost in order to test the boundaries of Roe.

Continued on Page 3

AP source: Immigration bill could exclude many

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A promised path to citizenship for the 11 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally may leave out hundreds of thousands of them.

Bipartisan Senate legislation would make legalization and ultimately citizenship available only to those who arrived in the U.S. before Dec. 31, 2011, according to a Senate aide with knowledge of the proposals. Anyone who came after that date would be subject to deportation.

The bill, expected to be introduced next week, also would require applicants to document that they were in the country before the cutoff date, have a clean criminal record and show enough employment or financial stability that they're likely to stay off welfare, said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the proposals had not been made public.

Although illegal immigration to the U.S. has been dropping, tens of thousands of people still arrive annually, so the cutoff date alone could exclude a large number of people. The aide said hundreds of thousands could be excluded overall. That came as a disappointment to immigrant rights groups that had been hoping that anyone here as of the date of enactment of the bill could be able to become eligible



Ajna Opiotennione, 28, of Washington, who emigrated from Ethiopia, poses for a portrait after attending the "Rally for Citizenship," a rally in support of immigration reform, on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Associated Press

ble for citizenship.

"The goal is to deal with the 11 million folks who are here without status, and the wider road that we can create for them to get on that path that they can ultimately get residency and citizenship, the better," Angela Kelley, vice president for immigration policy at the liberal Center for American Progress, said Friday. "A cutoff date that lops off all of 2012 and whatever part of 2013, that's going to be at least a couple hundred thousand people. It's not ideal." But Republicans in the eight-member immigration negotiating group have sought strict criteria on legal enforcement and

border security as the price for their support for a path to citizenship, which is still opposed by some as amnesty. The aide said that Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, who's working to sell the plan to conservatives, pushed Democrats in the group for an even earlier cutoff date, while the Democrats proposed Jan. 1, 2013. The date negotiators settled on was a compromise but also an outcome Rubio can tout to conservatives. Indeed Rubio's chief of staff, Cesar Conda, took to Twitter this week to describe the bill as tough on illegal immigration. "Freezes illegal population. No special pathway. No

amnesty," Conda wrote. "Registration for provisional status will not be opened and there will be a physical presence requirement barring recent arrivals." Rubio is to appear on all five network and cable talk shows this Sunday — as well as Univision and Telemundo — to discuss the legislation. Negotiators are aiming to introduce the bill on Tuesday. Details on the criminal record requirement were still being finalized, but anyone with a felony conviction was likely to be ineligible, the aide said. It's impossible to know exactly how many immigrants have arrived illegally in the U.S. since Dec. 31, 2011,

because such statistics aren't collected and the numbers that have been developed aren't that recent, according to Jeffrey Passel, a senior demographer at the Pew Hispanic Center. Despite their concerns over the cutoff date, immigration advocates emphasized they intend to evaluate the bill in totality and still expect to find much to like. Kelley and others also pointed out that the last time the U.S. enacted a major legalization program — with legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1986 that legalized close to 3 million people — it included a cutoff date of four years prior to enactment. So by comparison, the proposal in the expected new bill looks good. Advocates also will be looking to see how much will be charged to immigrants here illegally in fees and fines before they can become citizens and what other requirements are imposed, such as English proficiency.

The legislation would put millions here illegally on a 13-year path to citizenship, while also toughening border security requirements, mandating that all employers check the legal status of workers, and allowing tens of thousands of new high- and low-skilled workers into the country with new visa programs. The legislation is expected to include a new emphasis on merit-based immigration over family ties.

Also Friday, agriculture growers and the United Farm Workers gave their formal approval to a hard-fought deal finalizing one of the new visa programs, for agriculture workers.

After 2021, the agriculture secretary would set numbers of visas. The deal also establishes minimum wage rates across different agriculture occupations and allows farm workers already in the country illegally to obtain permanent resident green cards in as little as three years, as long as they work 150 days a year in agriculture, Nassif said. □

Wallshooting

Continued from Front

He said authorities are investigating online postings allegedly made by MacInnis prior to the Friday shooting but that he was unable to confirm whether those postings were legitimate. The type of weapon, how it was obtained and how many shots were fired during the incident were not being released due to the ongoing investigation, Sisson said.

The police chief also said

MacInnis participated in the Christiansburg Police Department Citizens Academy program in 2012. The 12-week course gives citizens an idea what happens at the department on a typical day, according to a press release seeking participants for the free program. Participants are able to get a chance to ride along with police officers, tour the officers' training facility and practice with firearms at the firing range, the news release said. □



A Virginia Tech police officer carries a weapon as he patrols outside the New River Valley Mall in Christiansburg, Va. on Friday, April 12, 2013. Officials say two women have been shot at the community college section of the mall and a suspect is in custody.

Associated Press

N. Dakota

Continued from front

Dalrymple also has signed a measure banning abortions when a fetus has genetic defects such as Down syndrome, and another requiring a doctor who performs abortions to be a physician with hospital-admitting privileges. Critics have said the measures also are aimed at the state's only abortion clinic. The so-called "fetal pain" bill, which also has been approved by the Senate, now goes to the governor. Dalrymple, a Republican, has hinted that he will sign it.

All of the North Dakota measures would take effect Aug. 1. The Center for Reproductive Rights, a New York-based nongovernmental group, has said it plans to challenge the



In this April 16, 2012 file photo, North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple speaks in Bismarck, N.D.

six-week ban before then. Lawmakers have started building a fund to defend against potential lawsuits. The Senate has unanimously supported a request by state Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem for a \$400,000 budget increase. The last few years have

been intensely busy for the Center for Reproductive Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union and other abortion-rights legal groups as Republican-controlled legislatures have enacted scores of laws seeking to restrict access to abortion. At least



In this Feb. 7, 2013 file photo, Sen. Jason Rapert, R-Conway, explains his bill dealing with abortion at the Arkansas state Capitol in Little Rock, Ark.

two dozen such measures are currently the target of lawsuits. Some of the recent laws place new requirements on abortion clinics, oth-

ers require abortion providers to perform certain procedures or offer state-mandated counseling before an abortion can take place. □

Discharge recommended for Navy officer in U.S.

MICHAEL MELIA

Associated Press

GROTON, Connecticut

(AP) — A former U.S. submarine commander who faked his death to end an extramarital affair should be honorably discharged from the Navy, a panel of officers recommended after a hearing in which the officer said he accepted "full and total accountability" for his behavior.

Cmdr. Michael P. Ward II, a married 43-year-old, sent his mistress in Virginia an email in July posing as a fictitious co-worker named Bob and saying Ward had died unexpectedly, a Navy investigation found. Ward was relieved of his duties aboard the USS Pittsburgh in August, a week after he'd taken command, and has received a letter of reprimand for adultery and other military violations.

Ward acknowledged that he had had an affair and sent the bogus email to the woman in an effort to

end it.

"The reason I did it was to sever the relationship," he said, "but the choice was ridiculous."

He also apologized to the Navy and the sailors who served under him.

The three-officer panel recommended he retain his rank upon being discharged. Their decision goes to the secretary of the Navy for approval within 90 days.

The government countered that Ward discredited the Navy.

"Commander Ward's actions show a complete lack of honesty, character and integrity," said Navy Lt. Griffin Farris, acting as prosecutor.

Ward said he accepted full responsibility for his actions and would regret them all his life.

"I want to apologize directly to my wife for the hurt and harm and humiliation I have caused her," he said as she sat in the front row, her eyes red. □



In this Aug. 3, 2012 photo provided by the U.S. Navy, Cmdr. Michael P. Ward II, center, is saluted during the change-of-command ceremony for the nuclear submarine USS Pittsburgh at the Naval Submarine Base New London, in Groton, Conn.

Associated Press

Obama pays \$112k in 2012 taxes on \$609k of income

By JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama made less in 2012 than in any other year since taking office, with about 40 percent of the nearly \$609,000 in income that he and first lady Michelle Obama reported coming from book sales.

Obama, who renewed his call for higher taxes on the wealthy in the budget he released Wednesday, paid \$112,214 in taxes last year, putting his effective federal tax rate at 18.4 percent.

The Obamas donated almost one-quarter of their income to charity, helping to lower their overall tax bill, according to tax returns released by the White House. Most of the \$608,611 that the Obamas reported in adjusted gross income came from the president's salary, as he reported \$394,840 in wages. An additional \$258,772 came from



President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

Associated Press

royalties from his books, including his 1995 memoir "Dreams From My Father," his 2006 political book, "The Audacity of Hope," and a 2010 children's book, "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters."

Income from Obama's books has fallen off since 2009, when his books sales surged after his inaugura-

tion. The Obamas made \$5.5 million that year - his first year in office - but the figure dropped precipitously the next year to \$1.73 million. In 2011, the Obamas reported about \$790,000 in income. The president and Mrs. Obama signed their tax returns on Monday - one week before the April 15 deadline for Americans

to file their 2012 returns. Itemized deductions of \$258,385 brought the Obama's taxable income down to \$335,026. The first family deducted \$45,046 in interest on the mortgage for their home in Chicago, plus \$36,554 in state and local taxes and \$26,751 in real estate taxes.

Through withholding and estimated tax payments during the year, the Obamas paid \$129,029 to the Internal Revenue Service - an overpayment of \$16,815. The Obamas directed that, rather than receive a refund, the overpayment will be applied to their taxes for next year. The Obamas also claimed \$39,875 in income from outside the United States. A White House official said all of that income came from book royalties, but did not disclose details about which countries the income came from. The official was not authorized

to comment publicly on Obama's taxes and spoke on condition of anonymity. The president and first lady reported donating \$150,034 - or 24.6 percent of their income - to 33 charities. That's a slight dip from the previous year, when the Obamas donated more than \$172,000. The largest contribution last year was a \$103,871 donation to Fisher House Foundation, which provides humanitarian services to military members, veterans and their families. Other charitable groups that received donations from the president for \$5,000 or less include the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the United Negro College Fund.

The president and the first lady also paid \$29,450 in income taxes to Illinois, according to their state tax returns. □

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Lawyer: Girl saw details online of sex assault

MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SARATOGA, California (AP)

— Fifteen-year-old Audrie Pott passed out drunk at a friend's house, woke up and concluded she had been sexually abused. In the days that followed, she was shocked to see an explicit photo of herself circulating among her classmates along with emails and text messages about the episode. And she was horrified to discover that her attackers were three of her friends, her family's lawyer says.

Eight days after the party, she hanged herself.

"She pieced together with emails and texts who had done this to her. They were her friends. Her friends!" said family attorney Robert Allard. "That was the worst" On Thursday, sheriff's officials arrested three 16-year-old boys on suspicion of sexual battery against Audrie, who committed suicide in September. The arrests and the details that came spilling out shocked many in this prosperous Silicon Valley suburb of 30,000. And together with two other episodes recently in the news — a suicide in Canada and a rape in Steubenville, Ohio — the case underscored the seeming callousness with which some young people use technology.

"The problem with digital technologies is they can expand the harm that people suffer greatly," said Nancy Willard, an Oregon-based cyberbullying expert and creator of a prevention program for schools. Santa Clara County sheriff's officials would not give any details on the circumstances around Audrie's suicide. But Allard said Audrie had been drinking at a sleepover at a friend's house, passed out

and "woke up to the worst nightmare imaginable." She knew she had been assaulted, he said.

She soon found an abundance of material online about that night, including a picture. "We are talking about a systematic distributing of a photo involving an intimate body part of hers," Allard said. He said distributing the photo was "equally insidious as the assault." She also discovered that her attackers were three boys she considered friends — young men in whom she had confided, the lawyer said. On Facebook, Audrie said the whole school knew what happened, and she complained that her life was ruined — "worst day ever," Allard said.

Her parents did not learn about the assault until after her death, when Audrie's friends approached them, Allard said.

Family members also believe the attackers tried to destroy evidence. That claim was posted on a Facebook page for a foundation set up in the girl's name.

It didn't provide further details on what type of evidence might have been targeted by the suspects. However, it asked any students with information to come forward.

In Canada, meanwhile, police said Friday they have received new information and are reopening their investigation in the case of 17-year-old suicide victim Rehtaeh Parsons.

Parsons was photographed while being sexually assaulted in 2011 and was then bullied after the photo was shared on the Web, authorities said. Police initially concluded there were no grounds to charge anyone.

In Steubenville, Ohio, two high school football players were convicted last month of raping a drunken 16-year-old girl in a crime that was recorded on cellphones by students and gossiped about online. The victim herself realized she had been attacked after seeing text messages, a photo of herself naked and a video that mocked her. The suspects in the Saratoga case were booked into juvenile hall. Their names were not released.

"People in this town are involved, parents advocate for their kids to get the best education, the best teachers, the best sports," said Jamie Perez, who was walking her baby and her dog on Friday past a coffee shop. □



This undated photo provided by her family via attorney Robert Allard shows Audrie Pott.

Associated Press

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3 dead as storm hits Midwest, Deep South

HOLBROOK MOHR

Associated Press

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP)

— A powerful storm unleashed tornadoes and peeled the roofs from homes in the U.S. Deep South and heaped snow on the Midwest, killing three people and leaving thousands without power as it moved up the East Coast on Friday.

Emergency officials said one person was killed by a tornado in Mississippi. In Missouri, a utility worker repairing power lines was electrocuted,

and a woman in Nebraska died when she tried to walk through a snowstorm from her broken-down car to her house a mile (1.6 kilometer) away.

The second day of golf at the Masters at Augusta National in Georgia began



Shelby Widener, right, and her neighbor, Eva Rose, survey damage to Widener's home near Madisonville, Tenn. on Friday, April 12, 2013 after a possible tornado. Local emergency management director Brian Turpin said there were no injuries and 8-10 people were displaced. A meteorologist from the National Weather Service was on the scene to determine if the damage is the result of a tornado or straight-line winds.

Associated Press

as scheduled, though the course was a bit wet but undamaged.

In Mississippi, Emergency Management Agency spokesman Greg Flynn said

one person died and 10 people were injured after a tornado struck the far east-

ern part of the state.

Charlotte Conner, 47, and her mother were in a small apartment when the twister hit. Conner said in a telephone interview Friday that she grabbed her mother's hand to keep the woman from being sucked outside. The two women had injured knees, scratches and bruises, and Conner had five stitches in her chin.

"I feel like I've been run over by an elephant and a train, but we're alive," Conner said. "It was just the hand of God that kept us safe."

Conner's aunt, Cindy Moore, 56, worried that the two women had been killed when she saw the roof of the concrete block building hanging in trees across the street, with their belongings scattered in the yard. □

Irish nanny indicted for murder in child's death



BOSTON (AP) — An Irish nanny accused of killing a baby in her care was indicted on a murder charge Friday in the U.S.

A grand jury in Massachusetts also accused Aisling Brady McCarthy of assault and battery on a child causing bodily injury, authorities said.

McCarthy was arrested in January after the death of Rehma Sabir, who was hospitalized with severe head injuries on her first birthday and died two days later.

McCarthy had previously pleaded not guilty to assault and battery on a child causing substantial bodily injury. She was jailed on \$500,000 bail while authorities, who said they expect-

ed to file a murder charge, awaited autopsy results.

Defense lawyer Melinda Thompson, who couldn't immediately be reached for comment Friday after the indictment, had protested the high bail and said McCarthy was "an innocent person sitting in jail."

State police said in court documents that a pillow, a blanket and baby wipes that were stained with blood were found in the baby's bedroom. Authorities have accused McCarthy of "violently injuring" the baby, causing her death. Authorities said a neighbor reported hearing the baby crying for nearly an hour on her birthday, followed

by more intense crying, but knocks on the family's door went unanswered.

In February, a judge ruled in McCarthy's favor when her lawyer asked for the preservation of all records related to the baby's travel from June 2012 until she died. That included who traveled with the baby, where the baby stayed and whether medical personnel examined her. The lawyer also asked for a list of people who lived at or visited the baby's home and for the family's computer records. The defense has said the baby returned home malnourished after traveling overseas, including to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and London.

This undated file booking photograph provided by the Middlesex District Attorney's office shows nanny Aisling McCarthy Brady.

Associated Press

Chile's Neruda bone remains to be analyzed in U.S.

LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) —

Bone remains of Chilean Nobel literature laureate Pablo Neruda will be analyzed in the United States as investigators seek to resolve a four-decade mystery about his death.

Neruda's body was exhumed this week in an effort to discover if he died from prostate cancer as was recorded, or if he was poisoned by agents of Gen. Augusto Pinochet's bloody dictatorship, as his driver and others believe.

Rodolfo Reyes, one of Neruda's nephews, met with Chilean and foreign forensics experts Friday and said some of the poet's skeletal remains will be sent to a laboratory at the University of North Carolina medical school.

"They're going to take some toxin tests at a laboratory," Reyes said after confirming that a jacket and a belt inside the exhumed coffin belong to the poet.

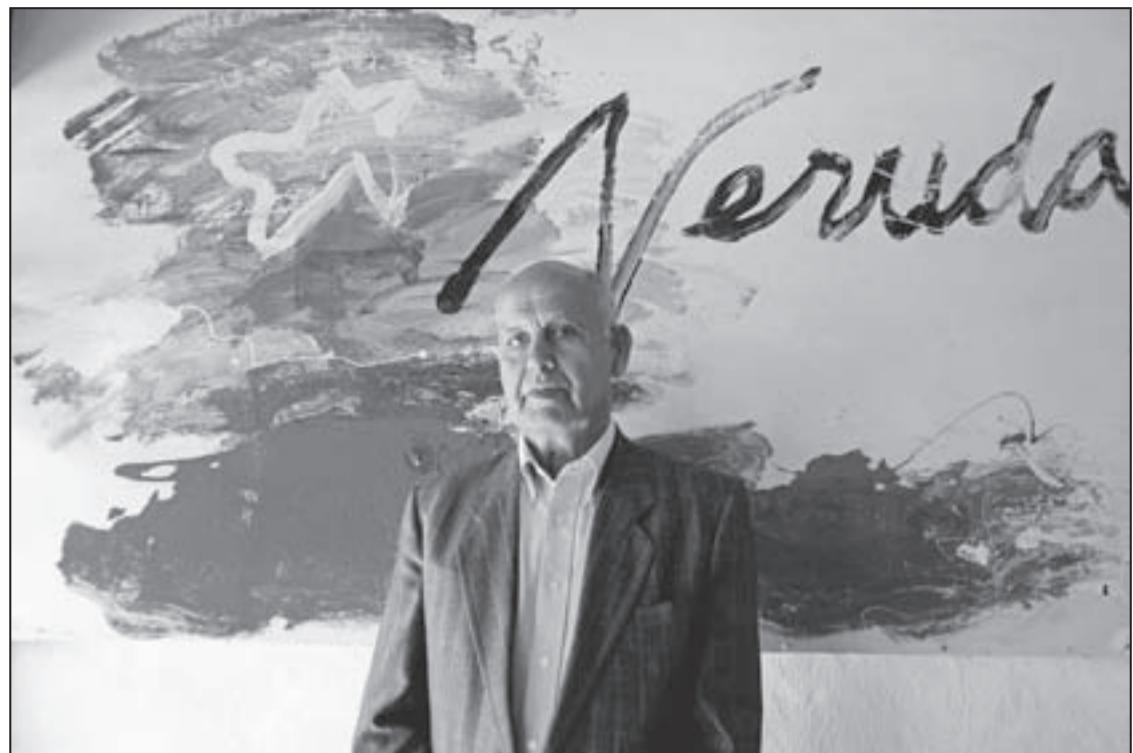
"It's a technical skill and we want them to take all

the time in the world to do it and that it doesn't leave a single doubt," Reyes told Radio Cooperativa.

Judge Mario Carroza, who approved a request by Chile's Communist Party for the disinterment, said he will receive a preliminary report about tests performed in Chile on April 22. The judge said he needs the report before he can order the return of Neruda's casket to his home in Isla Negra, a rocky outcropping overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Neruda was also a leftist politician and would have been a strong voice in exile against Pinochet's regime. That ended with his death just 24 hours before he was to have escaped Chile in the chaos after the Sept. 11, 1973, military coup.

He was 69 and suffering from prostate cancer when he died 12 days after the coup that led his close friend, socialist President Salvador Allende, to kill himself rather than surrender to Pinochet's troops attacking the presidential palace.



Literature Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda's driver, bodyguard and assistant in the year leading up to his death Manuel Araya poses for a picture at the museum at his resting place in Isla Negra, Chile, Sunday April 7, 2013.

Associated Press

For long, the official version was that Neruda died of natural causes brought on by the trauma of witnessing the coup and the killing of many of his friends. But suspicions remained, even after Pinochet lost power and Chile returned to a democ-

racy in 1990.

For years, Neruda's driver and aide said dictatorship agents injected poison into Neruda's stomach while he was bedridden at the Santa Maria clinic in Santiago. "We're hoping the analysis of the results in the United

States will be positive and will add to all the new evidence," Araya told The Associated Press on Friday. "I feel very peaceful. It was so difficult to get him exhumed and it has finally been done. I'm just searching for the truth." □

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Syrian troops widen offensive in border areas



Members of the Lebanese pro-Syrian Popular Committees stand on the Lebanon-Syria border, Lebanon, Friday, April 12, 2013.

Associated Press

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

AL-QASR, LEBANON (AP)— Syrian soldiers backed by warplanes battled rebels for control of strategic hilltop villages near the Lebanese border on Friday, as government troops step up counterattacks against opposition forces threaten-

ing regime supply lines on the country's frontiers. Bomb blasts and shots fired into the air to mourn a fallen Syrian government soldier could be heard on the Lebanese side of the border as fighting raged around Qusair, a contested central Syrian town near a key highway be-

tween Damascus and the coast.

The battles there came as government forces launched a second offensive against rebels in the province of Daraa on the Jordanian border, where the opposition has been making steady advances in recent weeks.

While President Bashar Assad's forces are stretched thin and much of the country has been allowed to slip into the hands of the rebels, the government is still fighting hard to keep control of airports, seaports, and roads linking them to the capital Damascus that are seen as essential to its survival. Also on Friday, activists said rebels clashed with troops in the northeastern border city of Qamishli, two kilometers (miles) away from the border with Turkey. Fighting is rare in the pre-

dominantly Kurdish and Christian city, where rebels usually maintain a truce with the government.

It was not clear what prompted the clashes, which according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights included members of the Islamic extremist Jabhat al-Nusra group.

Syria's rebels have gained momentum and made significant gains in the past weeks, largely due to an influx of arms. Arab officials and Western military experts say Mideast powers opposed to Assad have stepped up weapons supplies to Syrian rebels, with Jordan opening up as a new route.

While much of the recent fighting has focused in Daraa, rebels have also made advances in Homs province near Lebanon. The province saw some of the heaviest fighting during the first year of the Syrian conflict, which erupted in March 2011, and intermittent episodes of violence since.

On Friday, sporadic explosions inside Syria echoed across the Lebanese side of the border and an Associated Press reporter said Syrian warplanes carried out at least one airstrike inside Syrian territory near the town of Qusair.

Six people in the area, including two children, were killed when a shell struck their home, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Four rebel fighters were also killed.

The region overlooks a highway running between Damascus, Homs, and a

coastal enclave that is the heartland of Syria's Alawites, the minority Shiite offshoot sect to which Assad belongs, and is also home to the country's two main seaports, Latakia and Tartus.

Overlooking Qusair from the Lebanese side are villages populated mostly by Shiite Muslim supporters of the Hezbollah militant group, which has backed Assad's regime.

The rebels are overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim.

Syrian TV reported Friday that armed forces "restored peace and security" to Tal al-Nabi Mindo, a village that it described as occupying the highest hill in the region. Activists say it was taken a month ago by rebels. Members of the Popular Committees, a Hezbollah-backed group that has fighters in the border villages, told the AP that the Syrian army captured Tal al-Nabi Mindo on Thursday after a day of heavy fighting.

They said there were casualties on both sides. A commander who for security reasons identified himself only by his first name Mahmoud said the strategic hilltop village overlooks several towns and villages as well as the road that links Tartus to the central city of Homs and thereafter to Damascus.

Hezbollah has been accused by rebels of fighting alongside Assad's troops and launching attacks on rebels from inside Lebanese territory. But the border is porous and largely ignored by locals. □

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Kerry, S. Korea stand firm on Pyongyang's threats

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his South Korean counterpart said Friday that North Korea gains nothing by threatening tests of its missile or nuclear programs.

The United States its Asian ally would not accept the North as a nuclear power, Kerry said, adding that its provocative rhetoric is "unacceptable."

Kerry was kicking off four days of talks in East Asia amid speculation that the North's unpredictable regime would launch a mid-range missile designed to reach as far as the U.S. territory of Guam. Kerry also planned to visit China and Japan.

Speaking at a news conference with Kerry, South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se called Pyongyang's threats a "grave provocation" to the entire international community. North Korea often times its provocations to generate maximum attention, and Kerry's presence in Seoul will provide plenty of that, even if the United States is engaged in intense diplomacy with China, the North's benefactor, in an effort to lower tensions. Another key date on the calendar is April 15, the 101st birthday of North Korea's deceased founder, Kim Il

Sung.

Kerry's trip coincides with the disclosure of a new U.S. intelligence report that concludes North Korea has advanced its nuclear knowhow to the point that it could arm a ballistic missile with a nuclear warhead. The analysis, disclosed Thursday at a congressional hearing in Washington, said the Pentagon's intelligence wing has "moderate confidence" that North Korea has nuclear weapons capable of delivery by ballistic missiles but that the weapon would be unreliable.

Pentagon spokesman George Little said afterward that "it would be inaccurate to suggest that the North Korean regime has fully tested, developed or demonstrated the kinds of nuclear capabilities referenced" at the congressional hearing.

James Clapper, the director of national intelligence, said he concurred with Little and noted that the report alluded to at the hearing was compiled by the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency and was not an assessment by the entire U.S. intelligence community. "Moreover, North Korea has not yet demonstrated the full range of capabilities necessary for a nuclear armed missile," he said.

President Barack Obama

on Thursday urged calm, calling on Pyongyang to end its saber-rattling while sternly warning that he would "take all necessary steps" to protect American citizens.

Kerry's trip marks his first foray to the Asia-Pacific as America's top diplomat, spearheading the effort to "pivot" U.S. power away from Europe and the Middle East and toward the world's most populous region and fulcrum of economic growth.

And it comes on the heels of months of provocative action and warlike rhetoric from Pyongyang, including talk of nuclear strikes against the United States — however outlandish ana-



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, shakes hands with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se during a joint press conference at Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, April 12, 2013.

Associated Press

lysts consider such threats. No one is discounting the danger entirely after tests of a nuclear device and ballistic missile technology in recent months. □

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Canada police reopen investigation of alleged rape

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Authorities are reopening the case of a teen who hanged herself after she was allegedly raped and bullied for months, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said Friday.

The police force's Nova Scotia office said it had received new and credible information in the case of 17-year-old Rehtaeh Parsons, whose family said she was photographed while being sexually assaulted in 2011 and bullied after the photo went viral online. Her death on Sunday has been compared to similar cases in the United States, including a 15-year-old California girl who killed herself after her family says

she was sexually assaulted by friends and a photo surfaced online.

Police had concluded there were no grounds to charge anyone in the Canadian case after an initial yearlong investigation. But the RCMP in Halifax now says a person who provided new information is willing to verify who the suspects are and cooperate with investigators, who have come under public criticism for their handling of the case.

RCMP Cpl. Scott MacRae said he could not provide any details about who the source is or what the new information is. He would not say whether they were a witness. He said it's too early to speculate if there will be charges.



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A woman holds a photo as several hundred people attend a community vigil to remember Rehtaeh Parsons at Victoria Park in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Thursday, April 11, 2013.

Associated Press

"We're certainly encouraged by this," he said.

MacRae said Parsons' family had been informed, and they "welcome the reopening of the file."

The Nova Scotia government came under criticism after Justice Minister Ross Landry initially ruled out the possibility of reviewing how the RCMP handled allegations that Parsons was sexually assaulted.

A group reported to be the cyber-activist hackers Anonymous released a statement Friday saying it has seen "several public statements" from one of the alleged rapists acknowledging that he had sex with Parsons while she was intoxicated and that she threw up during the assault. □

BBC in hot seat as anti-Thatcher song climbs chart

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Opponents of the late Margaret Thatcher are taking a kind of musical revenge on the former prime minister, pushing the song "Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead" up the British charts in a posthumous protest over her polarizing policies.

By Friday the online campaign had propelled the "Wizard of Oz" song to No. 1 on British iTunes and into the top five of the music chart used by the BBC to compile its weekly radio countdown.

David Karpf, who studies online campaigns, said the chart battle was an example of a new kind of protest enabled by social media — "A way for people to signal protest en masse without shouting from the rooftops."

"It's a form of symbolic protest," he said.

The unusual campaign has caused a headache for the BBC. With the ditty near the top of the charts, the broadcaster faced the prospect of airing the words "The Wicked Witch is Dead!" on its Sunday countdown show, just days before Thatcher's funeral, scheduled for Wednesday. Some lawmakers from Thatcher's Conservative Party had called for the publicly funded broadcaster to drop the song, while others warned that such a move would mean censoring a form of dissent.

The BBC, caught between allegations of censorship and complaints about poor taste, split the difference, saying it would broadcast only part of the tune — along with a news item explaining why it was

there.

BBC director-general Tony Hall said that while the broadcaster found the campaign "distasteful and inappropriate," he and other executives had decided the song should not be banned — but should not be broadcast in full, either.

"We have agreed that we won't be playing the song in full, rather treating it as a news story and playing a short extract to put it in context," he said in a statement.

Ben Cooper, controller of Radio 1 — which broadcasts the chart show — said the clip would be "four or five" seconds long, though he did not say what part of the song would be aired.

The controversy — which made the front pages of many national newspapers — serves as a strange musical coda to Thatcher's time in office. The woman known to many as the Iron Lady was in power for 11 years, during which she wrenches Britain from the economic doldrums and successfully retook the Falkland Islands after Argentina's 1982 invasion.

Many still resent Thatcher for her uncompromising stance against the country's labor unions and what they saw as her inhumanity toward the working class. The campaign to send "Ding Dong!" to the top of the charts began soon after she died Monday of a stroke at London's Ritz Hotel.

Fans of Margaret Thatcher fought back by dusting off a 1980 punk song called "I'm in Love with Margaret Thatcher," in a tongue-in-cheek bid to compete.

This is not the first time ac-

tivists have harnessed the Internet to mete out musical punishment. In 2009, a Facebook-driven campaign ensured the anti-establishment group Rage Against the Machine beat a Simon Cowell-backed pop singer to the coveted Christmas No. 1 slot in Britain.

Karpf said the pro- and anti-Thatcher song race was a new variant on what he called a "buyout" — where competing groups use mass purchases to stake out political or cultural positions.

Thatcher supporters were split on whether the song should be played. Some attacked it as gratuitously disrespectful, while others said the right to protest had to be protected.



This is a Thursday, Oct. 25, 2007 file photo of John Lydon as performs with The Sex Pistols at the Roxy in West Hollywood, Calif., The concert marked the legendary British punk band's first-ever club performance in Southern California.

Associated Press

Louise Mensch, a former Conservative lawmaker and prominent Conservative voice on Twitter, said in a message posted to

the site that the Iron Lady would have wanted the song played.

"Thatcher stood for freedom," she wrote. □



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U.S. team using Twitter, Facebook to fight militants

JASON STRAZIUSO

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

The U.S. official who oversees American efforts to counter al-Qaida and other militants in the online battlefield keeps a quote on his desk from a "Most Wanted" jihadi from America's South. The Alabama native wrote that "the war of narratives has become even more important than the war of navies, napalm and knives."

"I keep that on my desk because that is true," Alberto Fernandez, the top official at the State Department's Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, told The Associated Press.

"It doesn't mean I think he's a great thinker or anything. I just thought that was right."

The wanted fighter behind the quote is Omar Hammami, who joined the Somali militant group al-Shabab about seven years ago and is a prolific user of Twitter, where he nostalgically posts about America — like the U.S. children's television show Reading Rainbow or his grandmother's cooking — as well as analyses of al-Shabab's battlefield strategy.

Fernandez' Digital Outreach Team has had online exchanges with Hammami in Arabic, though Fernandez says that while Hammami is engaging, silly and flippant in English, his Arabic is "staged and formal, as if someone is doing it for him."

One example of that flippancy: After the U.S. recently announced a \$5 million reward for Hammami he responded on Twitter: "As I'm a bit low on cash, how much is my left leg going for?"

Hammami, Fernandez says, has responded to the U.S. online efforts "in superficial ways ... he hasn't engaged in a substantive way."

"We are focused on specifics on al-Qaida/al-Shabab actions in Somalia, their violence and brutality against the Somali people,



This image downloaded from the internet on Thursday, April 11, 2013 shows the Facebook page of the U.S. Digital Outreach Team, a group operating within the U.S. Department of State. A 50-member group of U.S. government workers comprised of Americans and foreign nationals called the Digital Outreach Team is countering extremist propaganda on sites like Twitter and Facebook, with the top official on the team, Alberto Fernandez, saying the goal is to contest space that had previously been ceded to extremists. Page title in Arabic reads "US Digital Outreach Team - US Department of State".

Associated Press

the disconnect between their words and their actions," Fernandez said in a telephone interview from Washington. "A week ago they beheaded an 80-year-old Somali imam for disagreeing with them." The Digital Outreach Team tweets, posts updates on Facebook and uploads video to YouTube in Arabic, Punjabi, Somali and

had more than 7,000 what it terms "engagements" — postings, updates or uploads in 2012, its second full year in operation.

For example, on Wednesday the Digital Outreach Team said on its Arabic Facebook page that Jabhat al-Nusra, one of the most powerful Islamic militant groups fighting alongside Syrian rebels against



In this Wednesday, May 11, 2011 file photo, American-born Islamist militant Omar Hammami, 27, also known as Abu Mansur al-Amriki, addresses a press conference of the militant group al-Shabab at a farm in southern Mogadishu's Afgoye district in Somalia.

Associated Press

Urdu. The 50-member team is comprised of Americans and foreign nationals who are native speakers of the four languages. The unit

the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad, is not in Syria "to support the revolution and the Syrian people, but to impose al-

on whatever platform they're at."

Terrorism expert J.M. Berger said Fernandez's group faces challenges.

Tens of thousands of social media users with an interest in violent ideologies can be identified, Berger, who published a paper last month about countering violent extremism on social networks for the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation, told AP in an email. But it's "very difficult to figure out which users are worth watching. For students of extremist movements and those working to counter violent extremism online, deciphering the signal amid the noise can prove incredibly daunting."

Berger said he has a high



In this Wednesday, May 11, 2011 file photo, American-born Islamist militant Omar Hammami, 27, also known as Abu Mansur al-Amriki, right, and deputy leader of al-Shabab Sheik Mukhtar Abu Mansur Robow, left, sit under a banner which reads "Allah is Great" during a news conference of the militant group at a farm in southern Mogadishu's Afgoye district in Somalia.

Associated Press

Qaida's political agenda." Foreign fighters once mostly confined their online conversations to militant chat rooms and forums, but they have been migrating to more public Internet platforms in recent years, Fernandez said.

"The goal is to contest space that had previously been ceded to extremists, to confront them, to expose the bankruptcy and contradictions, the incoherence of al-Qaida, their friends and allies," said the Arabic-speaking Fernandez. "Previously they could monopolize, they could post their lies and no one was there to challenge them. And now we're there to challenge them

opinion of the work of Fernandez' team, which is working in an online environment that is both new to the government and fraught with pitfalls.

"There's a massive amount of work needed to develop the expertise to back such efforts up. Because it's Twitter, you don't think of it as requiring a lot of knowledge to wade on in, but these guys need all kinds of linguistic, regional and subject matter expertise," Berger said.

The Digital Outreach Team briefs Congress, think tanks and "others in government," Fernandez said. Hammami says he is unimpressed with Fernandez's team. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

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TEAM ARUBA CONTINUES TO POPULARIZE THE 'HAPPY ISLAND'

UNION, S.C. April 10, 2013: The Extreme Pro Stock Team from Aruba has a rather unique purpose among drag racing. While being successful on track is certainly among their top goals, this team also exists for another reason - to promote their island paradise home. Fans that walk by their pits are immediately drawn in by the sensation of bright colors of the

Aruba.com Mustang and hauler and surrounding island-themed decor. The team themselves, a true reflection of the 'happy island', pique the interests of racers and fans alike. And a quick tour of the Team's Facebook or Twitter pages will quickly have one longing for white sands and tropical breezes. Any interaction with this Team is sure to draw interest in an

Aruba vacation. Already many racers and fans have visited Aruba based on the recommendation of the Eman family and Team Aruba, including Pro Mod legend Harold Martin and former Pro Stock World Champions. Most recently Brud Benecke, crew member for John Pluchino, ventured to Aruba for an island getaway. He spoke enthusiastically about his

trip:

"Over the last three years I've become really good friends with Team Aruba. They kept encouraging me to come down to Aruba, so finally I decided to take my fiancee there on vacation. It was truly one of the best trips we've ever had. Everyone on the island was very accommodating and nice. Ven [Eman] went out of his way to show us around. We had a wonderful time and will certainly do it again. Our hotel accommodations were great. It was a peaceful vacation. We didn't have to worry about rain. Out of all the places I've been Aruba was the most accommodating and certainly a favorite. The only reason I went was because of Team Aruba, but now I will definitely go back. I also got a really, really good price by taking Team Aruba's recommendation and going through Player's Choice Tours."

Guy Gemore of Player's Choice Tours strictly sells Aruba vacation packages and has received many vacationers at the recommendation of Team Aru-

ba. Another of Pluchino's crew members, Bill Madden, booked a vacation through Guy Gemore and ended up buying a time-share in Aruba. For more information on your next vacation email guy@playerschoicetours.com.

The Team Aruba tour continues this weekend for the Hardee's ADRL Georgia Drags, April 13-14 at South Georgia Motorsports Park. The team hopes to build on the success of their first event, where they made it to the semi-finals.

"We have a lot of good things going on this season," told driver Trevor Eman. "Team morale is high. We're excited about the promise of this team. Plus, every time we're at the track is another chance to tell folks about Aruba. I enjoy that as much as going down the track!"

Keep up with Team Aruba at www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing and on Twitter @TeamArubaRacing.

Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba! □

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JOIN HYATT'S ECO WALK ON EARTH DAY

PALM BEACH, ARUBA (April 13, 2013) – For Earth Day, the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort, Spa & Casino is inviting all our associates and our community to participate with our Eco Walk on Sunday April 21, 2013. Earth Day is a globally recognized day to raise awareness around environmental sustainability. The first Earth Day was organized in the US in 1970,

than became global in 1990, as the need for environmental awareness around the world continued to grow. Earth Day is now an occasion to energize ourselves to be part of the solution on the path towards environmental sustainability. The Hyatt Regency Aruba is organizing this "Hyatt Thrive" event in cooperation with Fundacion Gabriel Flores. This foundation is known for creating various environmental awareness and cultural school projects. They will use the funds raised with this walk for such projects, which is ten florins per participant (including T-shirt). "Hyatt Thrive" is Hyatt's global effort to help make the communities

in which we operate places that our associates are proud to work, our guests want to visit, our neighbors want to live and hotel owners want to invest. Hyatt Thrive focuses on four areas that we believe are essential to a thriving community; Environmental Sustainability – Hyatt Earth, Education & Personal Advancement,

Economic Development & Investment and Health & Wellness. In regards to

Environmental Sustainability we are taking focused aggressive steps to reduce resource consumption, waste and emissions at our hotels – and protecting the natural environment in our local communities. Environmental sustainability is a journey and not a short-term endeavor.

Achieving measurable results requires a conscious effort and a healthy mix of focus, innovation, commitment and optimism, by all parties involved.

The route of the walk will be Hyatt – La Cabana – Hyatt and will be a total of 5 KM.

The Eco Walk will start at 5pm at the Hyatt parking-lot with a warm up Zumba session of 30 minutes after which the walk will start at 5.30pm.

There will be a raffle with fabulous door prizes and prizes.

for the ones who participate with a creatively pimped Earth Day Theme T-shirt to create even more environmental awareness. There will also be fruits, juice and music. Participants can sign up at IBISA. For more information call IBISA at 5824987 or e-mail eco4lifearuba@hotmail.com.

To all people of Aruba; locals, residents and visitors, who will participate in the Earth Day Eco Walk this coming April 21, please come with your family and friends and have some fun during this Earth Day Celebration while creating environmental awareness.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step!

About Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort, Spa & Casino

Located on 12 acres of magnificent beachfront property on Aru-

ba's world-renowned Palm Beach, Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Casino & Spa is a year-round resort with a reputation for refined hospitality. Its 357 sumptuous guestrooms and suites include plasma televisions, roomy bathrooms and Hyatt's signature Grand Bed.

The hotel delivers a sense of authentic island chic with an emphasis on unique architecture that includes an open-air lobby, natural stone floors and colorful Caribbean accents. Recreational facilities are abundant and include a 3-level pool complex, a new ZoiA Spa with fitness center, tennis and basketball courts, a private beach, Camp Hyatt for kids and the Hyatt Regency Casino. On-site dining includes Mexicado, Ruinas del Mar restaurant, FootPrints and the Palms Bar & Grill. Nine meeting rooms and extensive outdoor areas are ideal for catered special events. The resort is conveniently located just 15 minutes from Queen Beatrix International Airport. For more information, call 297 586 1234 or visit www.aruba.hyatt.com. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NHL Capsules



Pittsburgh Penguins left wing Jussi Jokinen (36), of Finland, celebrates his goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Thursday, April 11, 2013, in Tampa, Fla. Associated Press

Jokinen has 2 goals, Pens beat Lightning

The Associated Press

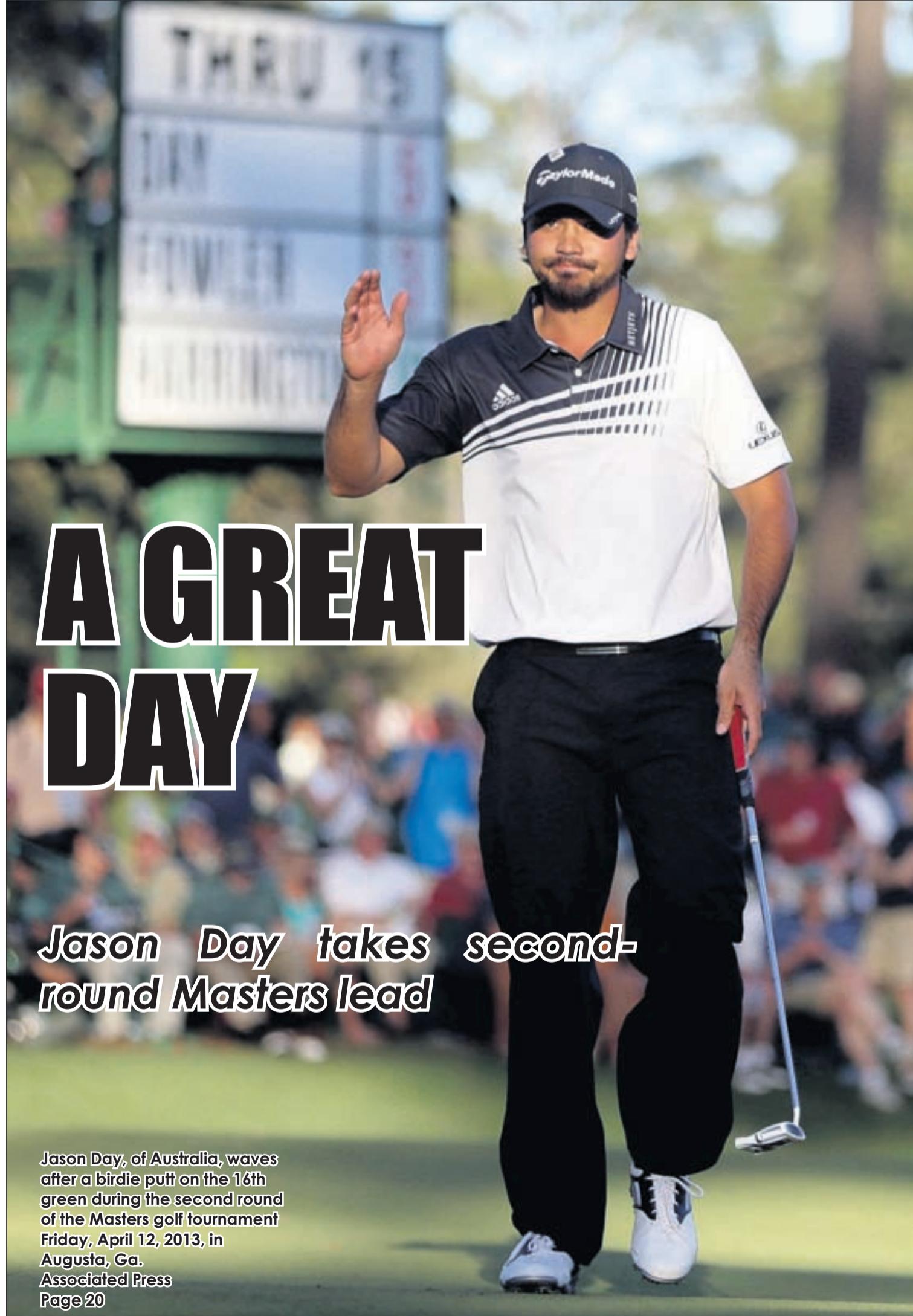
TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Jussi Jokinen scored two goals and added an assist, Pascal Dupuis had a goal and two assists, and the Eastern-Conference leading Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 6-3 Thursday night.

Chris Kunitz, Evgeni Malkin and Tanner Glass had the other Pittsburgh goals. Dupuis has three goals and eight points during a four-game points streak.

Pittsburgh defenseman Kris Letang was back in the lineup and had an assist after missing the previous six games with a lower body injury. The Penguins are still without center Sidney Crosby (broken jaw), left wing James Neal (concussion) and defenseman Paul Martin (hand).

Pittsburgh has a six-game winning streak against the Lightning.

Continued on page 18



NASCAR could take closer look at sponsorships

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — NASCAR might take a closer look at how it approves sponsors after the National Rifle Association became the title sponsor of this weekend's Sprint Cup race at Texas during a national debate over gun rights. NASCAR spokesman David Higdon said NASCAR has no official position on gun rights.

"Our fans, racing teams and industry partners come from all walks of life and thus have varying points of views and opinions," Higdon said Friday. "As a sport, we are in the business of bringing people together for entertainment, not political debate."

Sponsorships are agreements directly between track and sponsor, but



Driver Matt Kenseth, top, heads down pit road as fans, top, look on during practice for the NASCAR Sprint Cup series NRA 500 auto race at Texas Motor Speedway, Friday April 12, 2013, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

NASCAR reserves the right to approve or scuttle them. "The NRA's sponsorship of the event at Texas Motor Speedway fit within existing parameters that NASCAR

affords tracks in securing partnerships," Higdon said. "However, this situation has made it clear that we need to take a closer look at our approval process

moving forward, as current circumstances need to be factored in when making decisions."

Sprint Cup points leader and five-time champion Jimmie Johnson said it is "clearly a sensitive subject." He said drivers are in Texas to do their job and put on a great race.

"The title sponsorship of an event is well outside of the driver's focus or anything we have to do with," Johnson said. "I do recognize that it is a very touchy topic right now."

The NRA 500 on Saturday night comes as the U.S. Senate weighs legisla-

tion intended to reduce gun violence in the wake of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., last December. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., recently called on the Fox network to not broadcast the race and questioned the Victory Lane tradition at Texas, where the winner gets a cowboy hat and can fire six-shooters loaded with blanks into the air.

The NRA also sponsored a second-tier Nationwide race last September at Atlanta, which like Texas Motor Speedway, is owned by Speedway Motorsports Inc. □

NHL Roundup

Continued from page 17

Teddy Purcell had two goals for the Lightning. Brett Connolly had the other Tampa Bay goal. CANADIENS 5, SABRES 1

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Peter Budaj stopped 14 shots and Montreal clinched a playoff berth, regaining the Northeast Division lead with a win over Buffalo.

P.K. Subban and Andrei Markov had a goal and assist each, and Rene Bourque, Alex Galchenyuk and Brendan Gallagher also scored for the Canadiens, who moved one point ahead of Boston, which was beaten 2-1 by the New York Islanders.

In earning its fourth postseason berth in five years, Montreal is returning to the playoffs after bottoming out last year, when the Canadiens finished last in the Eastern Conference.

Budaj's shutout bid ended when Brian Flynn scored a short-handed goal 6:45 into the third.

KINGS 3, AVALANCHE 2, SO

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jeff Carter scored his 24th goal and scored again in the shootout, and Los Angeles moved back into fourth place in the Western Conference with a win over Colorado.

Mike Richards scored in the first period and Jonathan

Quick made 26 saves for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who ended a two-game losing streak. Captain Dustin Brown and Anze Kopitar also scored in Los Angeles' 3-for-3 shootout against Jean-Sebastien Giguere.

Patrick Bordeleau scored with 14:55 to play to even it for the last-place Avalanche, who nearly pulled another upset in Southern California. Paul Stastny also scored for Colorado, which ended a 14-game, road-losing streak since Feb. 14 with a 4-1 win at powerful Anaheim on Wednesday.

ISLANDERS 2, BRUINS 1

BOSTON (AP) — Josh Bailey scored twice and New York added another big win in its surge toward the playoffs with a win over Boston.

The Islanders, seeking their first trip to the postseason in seven years, improved to 5-0-1 in their last six games. They started the day tied with Ottawa and the New York Rangers with 44 points. New York kept pace with Ottawa, which won at Philadelphia. The eighth-place Rangers were idle.

Tyler Seguin scored for the Bruins, who fell to 5-2 in their last seven games one night after moving into second place in the East with a 5-4 win at New Jersey.

Bailey's fourth goal in six games snapped a 1-1 tie at 13:12 of the second period. □

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Greinke breaks collarbone in brawl with Padres

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke broke his left collarbone in a bench-clearing brawl with the San Diego Padres during Los Angeles' 3-2 victory Thursday night.

Juan Uribe's pinch-hit home run in the eighth put the Dodgers ahead, two innings after Greinke hit Carlos Quentin on the left shoulder with a pitch.

The slugger started walking toward the mound and Greinke appeared to say something. Quentin then charged the 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner. They dropped their shoulders and collided, and Quentin tackled the pitcher to the ground.

Quentin and Greinke ended up at the bottom of a huge scrum as players from both sides ran onto the field and jumped in.

When they were finally pulled apart, Greinke was checked by a trainer and manager Don Mattingly before walking off toward the dugout, his uniform top disheveled after it had been pulled over his head by Quentin.

Greinke lowered his left (non-throwing) shoulder into Quentin and took the brunt of the blow as they collided. The right-hander, who had his wife and in-laws in the stands, joined the Dodgers as a free agent in the offseason, signing a \$147 million, six-year contract.

After the teams started going back to the dugouts and bullpens, Jerry Hairston Jr. came running across the field yelling and pointing at someone in the San Diego dugout and had to be restrained.

Dodgers slugger Matt Kemp also was livid, perhaps in part because Padres starter Jason Marquis threw a high-and-tight pitch to him in the first inning.

The benches and bullpens emptied again, leading to pushing and shoving. It did not appear any punches were thrown, but suspen-

sions and fines are sure to follow. Quentin, Kemp, Greinke and Hairston were ejected. Los Angeles reliever Chris Capuano was given all the time he needed to warm up when play finally resumed after a delay of about 15 minutes.

Quentin was hit by a pitch above the right wrist by Dodgers reliever Ronald Belisario on Tuesday and had to leave the game. He sat out Wednesday night's game.

Greinke plunked Quentin once in 2008 and once in 2009 when both were in the American League, according to STATS.

Uribe homered off Luke Gregerson (1-1) with one out in the eighth to give the Dodgers a 3-2 lead.

Matt Guerrier (1-0) retired Jesus Guzman with two on and Kenley Jensen pitched the ninth for his first save. Former San Diego star Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer for the Dodgers.

GIANTS 7, CUBS 6

CHICAGO (AP) — Angel Pagan had a go-ahead sacrifice fly after pitcher Ryan Vogelsong walked with the bases loaded to tie it in the fifth inning, and San Francisco rallied from an early five-run deficit to beat Chicago.

Pablo Sandoval hit a two-run double in a four-run fourth that was spurred by Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro's two-out fielding error, helping the World Series champions win their fourth in a row.

Vogelsong (1-1) yielded eight hits and five runs, four earned, in the first three innings before retiring his final 10 batters on a foggy and damp, 40-degree day.

Scott Feldman (0-2) lasted 4 1-3 innings and gave up six runs — two earned — on seven hits.

Santiago Casilla got out of an eighth-inning jam and Sergio Romo allowed a one-out double in the ninth before striking out Castro and Anthony Rizzo for his sixth save.

Rizzo hit a two-run homer and Brent Lillibridge had a

two-run single for the Cubs, snapping an 0-for-17 start to the season.

INTERLEAGUE

NATIONALS 7, WHITE SOX 4
WASHINGTON (AP) — Ryan Zimmerman delivered a two-run double after Bryce Harper was intentionally walked, and Washington beat Chicago on a windy night to cap a three-game sweep.

Dan Haren (1-1) got his first win for the Nationals despite allowing 10 hits in five innings.

With the score tied at 3 in the fourth, Haren helped himself by doubling off Dylan Axelrod (0-1) and eventually scoring on a wild pitch with two outs.



San Diego Padres' Carlos Quentin charges into Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke after being hit by a pitch in the sixth inning of baseball game in San Diego, Thursday, April 11, 2013.

Associated Press

Chicago then put Harper on base on purpose, but the move didn't work: Cleanup hitter Zimmerman lined a double to right on Axelrod's 103rd — and final — pitch of the evening. That put Washington ahead 6-3, and relievers Ryan Mattheus, Tyler Clippard and Rafael Soriano made it hold up. □

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Day leads at Masters; 14-year-old makes cut

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) —

The 14-year-old from China isn't going anywhere in a hurry. And this Masters is still a long way from taking shape.

Despite being the first player at Augusta National to get hit with a one-shot penalty for slow play, teenager Guan Tianlang still made history Friday as the youngest player to make the cut in a PGA Tour-sanctioned event.

And it came down to the last shot of a wild and windy day.

Jason Day could have sent the kid home early with a birdie from just off the front of the green on the 18th hole. But the Australian was wide left and tapped in for par, giving him a 4-under 68 and a one-shot lead over fellow Aussie Marc Leishman and the ageless Fred Couples.

The par meant that Guan, who had one shot added to his score on the 17th hole for his second bad time of the round — made the cut under the 10-shot rule.

"If I can make it, I would be really happy for it," Guan said some five hours earlier. "But if I didn't make it, it's still a great week."

He's now part of a weekend at Augusta that should be as dynamic as ever.

Day was at 6-under 138, and 18 players were within four shots of the lead, including Tiger Woods.

Woods moved into a share of the lead with a two-putt birdie on the eighth hole, and his game looked to be as sharp as ever — perhaps too sharp. Right when it looked like he might take the outright lead, Woods hit a lob wedge that was so perfect it hit the flag on the par-5 15th and caromed backward off the green and into the water. Instead of having a short birdie putt, he had to scramble to save bogey.

Then, on the 18th, Woods' shot hopped onto the upper shelf, leading to his second three-putt bogey of the week. He had to set-



Jason Day, of Australia, tees off on the fourth hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 12, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press



Amateur Guan Tianlang, of China, chips to the first green during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 12, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

tle for a 71, though he was still only three shots out of the lead.

"My score doesn't quite indicate how well I played today," Woods said.

Day, a runner-up at the Masters two years ago, can be one of the most exciting players when his game is on, as it was Friday. Even from the pine straw under the trees on the dangerous 11th, the Aussie took dead aim at the pin and set up a rare birdie to join the leaders.

His only blunder was hitting into the water short of the 12th, though he still managed to escape with bogey, and then he hit a 4-wood low enough to stay below the trees and avoid the wind on the 13th, set-

ting up a two-putt birdie. He was cognizant of the guys behind him — Woods included — though just as much pressure comes from trying to be the first Australian in a green jacket.

"The moment I start worrying about other players is the moment I start losing focus on what I need to do, and when I do that, I'll start making bogeys," Day said. "It's obviously great to have the lead. I'm very excited for the challenge over the next two days. It really is exciting to have the opportunity to win the Masters. I'm very, very happy where I am right now."

The 53-year-old Couples, who shared the 36-hole lead last year at the Masters, birdied the 18th hole

for a 71 and will play in the final group.

"I did tee off Thursday with the idea of playing well, and now it's Friday afternoon late. I'm surprised, but I'm not going to freak out over it," Couples said. Former Masters champion Angel Cabrera of Argentina birdied five of his last six holes for a 69 and was in the group two shots behind, along with former U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk (71) and Brandt Snedeker (70).

Woods was at 3-under 141 with six others, including Adam Scott (72), Lee Westwood (71) and Justin Rose (71).

And still in the mix was Rory McIlroy, who turned his fortunes around with a 5-wood from about 275 yards that set up a short eagle putt. He added three more birdies on the back nine and had a 70, leaving him only four shots out of the lead going into the weekend.

"Anything under par today was going to be a good score," McIlroy said.

The hole locations were severe in spots, with one pin tucked on top of a mound toward the front of the fifth green. The par 5s played into an opposite wind on the back nine, and they were not easy to reach. Furyk got home in two on the

15th hole Thursday with a hybrid. He used that same club to lay up on Friday.

Such tough conditions made Guan's performance that much more impressive. He had a respectable 75, which included the one-shot penalty.

And for the longest time, it looked as though it might be costly.

Guan, playing with Matteo Manassero and Ben Crenshaw, was informed his group was out of position as it left the 10th green. They were on the clock on the 12th hole, meaning players would be timed to make sure they hit their shots within the 40-second limit. The teen got his first bad time with his second shot on the 13th hole, and it was clear he was in trouble after his shot into the 17th when John Paramor, chief referee in Europe, walked out to speak to him.

"You give him the news, the best you can," Paramor said.

Fred Ridley, the head of competition at the Masters, did not say how long Guan took to hit his second shot on the 17th, only that it was a "considerable margin" over his time. Guan still managed to make par on the 17th, and if he was shaken by the news so late in the round, it didn't show. He made one last par and was at 4-over 148.

His game is well beyond his years, and so was his attitude over the first slow-play penalty in a major since Gregory Bourdy in the 2010 PGA Championship.

"I respect the decision they make," said Guan, who spent nearly 90 minutes talking with officials after the round. "They should do it because it's fair to everybody."

The penalty looked ominous because Dustin Johnson was running off birdies every way imaginable, the only player to reach 7-under par in nasty conditions. His round imploded, however, when he played the final five holes in 6-over par. □



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Bulls stop Knicks winning streak at 13 with OT win

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Nate Robinson scored a season-high 35 points and the Chicago Bulls stopped another lengthy winning streak, rallying to beat New York 118-111 in overtime Thursday night and end the Knicks' 13-game run.

NBA Capsules Robinson came up big down the stretch, scoring eight points in the extra period.

Jimmy Butler added 22 points, Luol Deng scored 16, and the Bulls busted a long streak for the second time in about a two-week span, ending the Miami Heat's 27-game run — the second-longest in NBA his-

tory — on March 27.

They put the Knicks' longest streak in nearly two decades to rest with a huge surge in the second half, offsetting Carmelo Anthony's 36 points. Robinson started overtime with a three-point play to give Chicago a 108-105 lead, and after Anthony scored, the Bulls started to pull away.

THUNDER 116, WARRIORS 97 OAKLAND, California (AP) — Kevin Durant had 31 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists to help the Oklahoma City Thunder regain the Western Conference's best record with a victory over the Golden

State Warriors. Kevin Martin scored 23 points off the bench and Russell Westbrook added 18 points and nine assists for the Thunder, who moved a half-game ahead of idle San Antonio for the top seed. The Spurs split the season series with Oklahoma City, but the Thunder (58-21) own the tiebreaker because of its better conference record. Stephen Curry scored 22 points and reserve Jarrett Jack had 19 points on a night the playoff-bound Warriors lost center Andrew Bogut to another injury. The 7-footer left in the first quarter with a sprained left ankle. His status is unclear. □



New York Knicks' Iman Shumpert (21) defends as Chicago Bulls' Nate Robinson (2) drives to the basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, April 11, 2013, in Chicago. The Bulls won 118-111 in overtime.

Associated Press

Powell hopes to stay healthy ahead of worlds

PAT GRAHAM**AP Sports Writer**

Asafa Powell is hoping to stay healthy this season and finally shed the label of "best sprinter never to win at a major meet," which has trailed him around the track for years.

The former world record-holder in the 100 meters has gone under 10 seconds more than anyone in history, including fellow Jamaican Usain Bolt.

But health has held Powell back. It seems he's always dealing with a balky hamstring or nagging groin ailment, like the one that caused him to pull up in the 100 at the London Games last summer.

Sometimes, Powell just can't help but wonder what he might have accomplished had he stayed healthy.



In this Aug. 4, 2012 file photo, Jamaica's Asafa Powell competes in a men's 100-meter heat at the 2012 Summer Olympics, London.

.Associated Press

He will try again for his first individual title at a major event this August at the world championships in Moscow. □

Almagro advances to U.S. Men's Clay Court semis

MICHAEL A. LUTZ**Associated Press**

HOUSTON (AP) — Top-seeded Nicolas Almagro of Spain advanced to the U.S. Men's Clay Court semifinals Friday, using service breaks at the end of each set to beat Italy's Paolo Lorenzi 6-4, 6-4.

Fifth-seeded American John Isner also advanced, hitting 19 aces to overpower Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Almagro, ranked 12th in the world, will next face Rhyne Williams, the American wild card who rallied from an 0-3 deficit in the third set to beat Spain's Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo.

Third-seeded Juan Monaco of Argentina was to face American Robby Ginepri in the other quarterfinal later Friday. □



Amateur Guan Tianlang, of China, chips to the first green during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 12, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press.

Doctors use brain scans to 'see' and measure pain

MARILYNN MARCHIONE

AP Chief Medical Writer

Scientists reported Wednesday in a provocative new study that they were able to "see" pain on brain scans and, for the first time, measure its intensity and tell whether a drug was relieving it. Though the research is in its early stages, it opens the door to many possibilities.

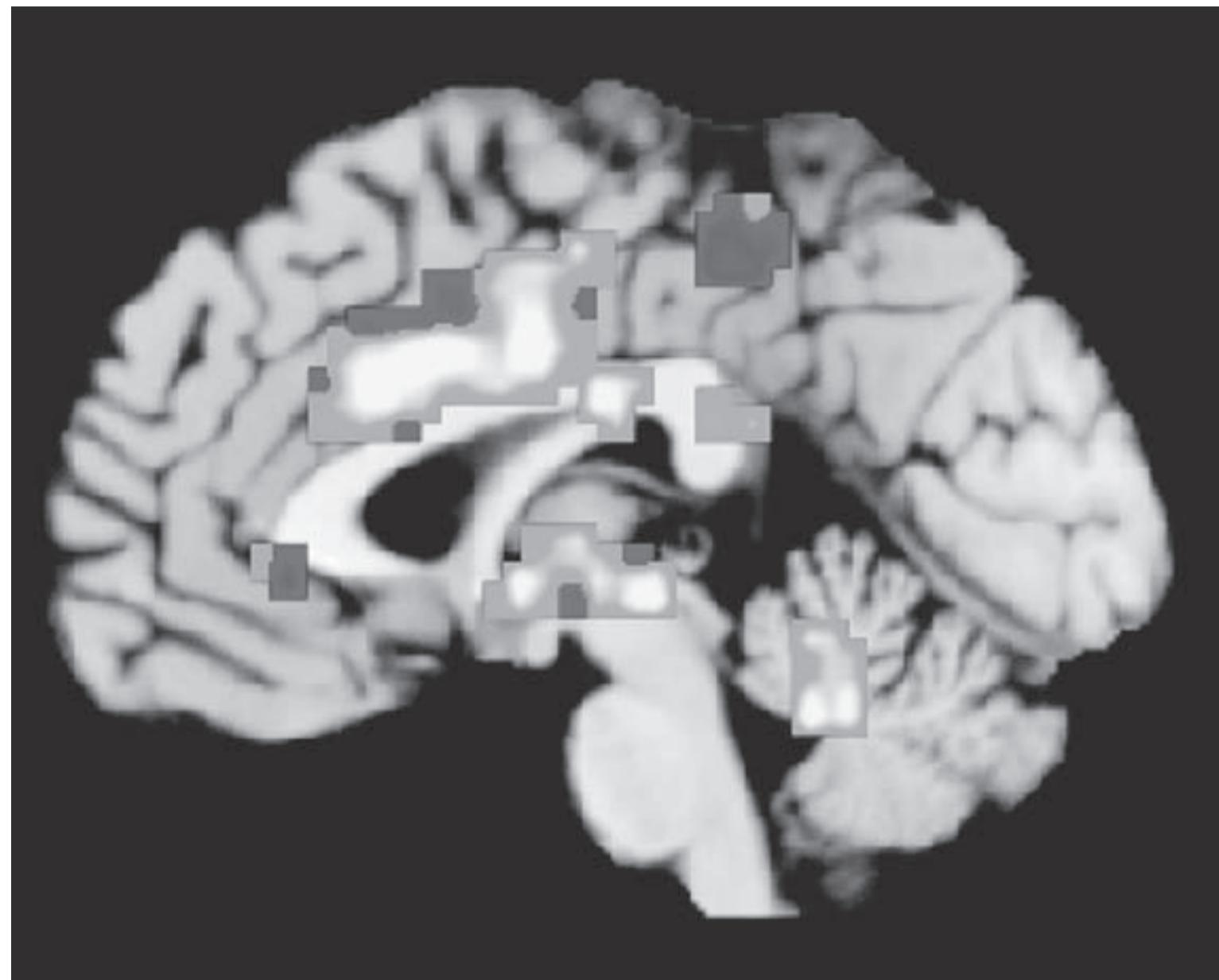
Scans might be used someday to tell when pain is hurting a baby, someone with dementia or a paralyzed person unable to talk. They might lead to new, less addictive pain medicines. They might even help verify claims for disability.

"Many people suffer from chronic pain, and they're not always believed. We see this as a way to confirm or corroborate pain if there is a doubt," said Tor Wager, a neuroscientist at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

He led the research, published in the New England Journal of Medicine. So far it is only on pain felt through the skin — heat applied to an arm. More study needs to be done on more common kinds of pain, such as headaches, bad backs and pain from disease.

Pain is the top reason people see a doctor, and there's no way to quantify how bad it is other than what they say. A big quest in neuroscience is to find tests or scans that can help diagnose ailments with mental and physical components such as pain, depression and PTSD, or post-traumatic stress disorder. Although many studies have found brain areas that light up when pain is present, the new work is the first to develop a combined signature from all these signals that can be used to measure pain.

"This is very exciting work. They made a huge breakthrough in thinking about brain patterns," said Dr. David Shurtleff, acting deputy director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which helped sponsor the research. "We need a



This image created by Tor Wager of the University of Colorado, Boulder shows regions of the "neurologic pain signature," a standard map that can be applied to individual people who may be experiencing pain.

Associated Press

brain-based signature for pain. Self-report doesn't cut it. It's not reliable, it's not accurate."

The research involved four experiments at Columbia University approved by a panel to ensure no participants were harmed. In all, 114 healthy volunteers were paid \$50 to \$200 to be tested with a heating element placed against a forearm at various temperatures, not severe enough to cause burns or lasting damage. Some of the experiments required them to stand it for 10 to 20 seconds.

"It's like holding a hot cup of coffee that you really want to put down but can't quite yet," Wager said.

Functional magnetic resonance imaging, or fMRI scans, which don't require radiation as X-rays do, recorded changes in brain

activity as measured by blood flow. Computers were used to generate signatures or patterns from these readings.

The first set of experiments on 20 people developed signatures for pain versus the anticipation of it or mild warmth on the arm. The second experiment validated these signatures in 33 other people and found they predicted how much pain they said they felt.

"It's really what seems to be a true measure of the experience that the patient's having," and it gives a number to pain severity that can guide care, said one expert with no role in the studies, Dr. Costantino Iadecola, director of the Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Researchers took their work a step further with the third

experiment, which involved 40 people who recently lost a serious love relationship and were feeling intensely rejected. Besides the heat tests, they had scans while being shown a picture of their former partners and then a picture of a good friend. Researchers found the brain signatures for social or emotional pain were different from the ones for physical pain. "That's very provocative," said Dr. Allan Ropper, a neurologist at Brigham and Women's and Harvard University who wrote a commentary in the journal. The signatures seem highly accurate and able to distinguish physical pain from other kinds, he said. In the fourth experiment, researchers gave 21 participants two infusions of a morphine-like drug while they were being scanned and having the heat tests.

The first time, they knew they were getting the drug. The second time they were told they were getting dummy infusions but in fact got the drug again. Brain signatures showed their pain was being relieved both times in proportion to how much drug was in their systems.

"This is beginning to open a new wedge into brain science," Ropper said. "There may be completely novel ways of treating pain by focusing on these areas of the brain rather than on conventional medications which block pain impulses from getting into the spinal cord and brain."

Shurtleff also said he hoped the research would lead to newer drugs.

"We want medications that can reduce this signature and don't show a signature for addiction," he said. □

Coding boot camps promise to launch tech careers

TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Looking for a career change, Ken Shimizu decided he wanted to be a software developer, but he didn't want to go back to college to study computer science.

Instead, he quit his job and spent his savings to enroll at Dev Bootcamp, a new San Francisco school that teaches students how to write software in nine weeks. The \$11,000 gamble paid off: A week after he finished the program last summer, he landed an engineering job that paid more than twice his previous salary.

"It's the best decision I've made in my life," said Shimizu, 24, who worked in marketing and public relations after graduating from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010. "I was really worried about getting a job, and it just happened like that."

Dev Bootcamp, which calls itself an "apprenticeship on steroids," is one of a new breed of computer-programming school that's proliferating in San Francisco and other U.S. tech hubs. These "hacker boot camps" promise to teach students how to write code in two or three months and help them get hired as web developers, with starting salaries between \$80,000 and \$100,000, often within days or weeks of graduation.

"We're focused on extreme employability," said Shereef Bishay, who co-founded Dev Bootcamp 15 months ago. "Every single skill you learn here you'll apply on your first day on the job."

These intensive training programs are not cheap — charging \$10,000 to \$15,000 for programs running nine to 12 weeks — and they're highly selective, typically only admitting 10 to 20 percent of applicants. And they're called boot camps for a reason. Students can expect to work 80 to 100 hours a week, mostly writing code in teams under the guidance of experienced



Shereef Bishay, co-founder of Dev Bootcamp, center, talks with student Ryan Guerrettaz during a class at Dev Bootcamp in San Francisco, Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

Associated Press

software developers.

"It's quite grueling. They push you very hard," said Eno Compton, 31, who finished Dev Bootcamp in late March. Compton is finishing his doctorate in Japanese literature at Princeton University, but decided he wants to be a software engineer instead of a professor.

"For people who are looking to get involved in software in a big way and don't want to set aside four years for a computer-science degree, this nine-week program is a terrific alternative," Compton said.

One San Francisco school called App Academy doesn't charge tuition. Instead, it asks for a 15 percent cut of the student's first-year salary. Graduates who can't find jobs don't have to pay, but so far nearly all of them have.

"When I started it, people thought we were crazy. Why would you do something like that? But in practice it's worked out well so far," said Ned Ruggeri, who co-founded App Academy last summer.

Over the past year, more than two dozen computer-coding schools have opened or started recruiting students in cities such as New York, Chicago, Toron-

to, Washington and Cambridge, Massachusetts. The programs are attracting students from a wide range of backgrounds, from college dropouts to middle-aged career changers. Most students haven't formally studied computer science, but have tried to learn to code on their own. Alyssa Ravasio, who graduated from UCLA with a liberal arts degree in 2010, worked at tech startups but was frustrated because she didn't know how to write software, so she signed up for Dev Bootcamp.

"What we've learned in the last nine weeks would have taken at least a year, if not years, on my own," Ravasio said. "I knew I wanted to learn how to code, and I tried to do it on my own before and it was really hard and really frustrating."

But as more boot camps open, backers worry low-quality programs could hurt the reputation of the pioneer schools and drive away potential students and recruiters.

"I worry about the explosion of Dev Bootcamp copycats," said Michael Staton, a venture capitalist at Learn Capital. "If they mess up, they kind of ruin it for everybody. Then students have to worry about whether these schools can actually deliver on their promise."

uates are struggling to find jobs that pay enough to chip away at their hefty student loan debts.

The new schools say they are teaching students the real-world skills that employers want but colleges have failed to provide. "Our school is a lot shorter, cheaper and more applicable to the work they'd like to do than universities," said Shawn Drost, who co-founded Hack Reactor in San Francisco six months ago.

This intensive-learning model can also be used to train workers for other professions for less time and money than what traditional colleges require, Staton said. "We think this is the beginning of a really large movement that will happen across industries," he said.

Bishay, an Egyptian-born engineer who sold his first software company to Microsoft in 2001, started Dev Bootcamp as an experiment. He wanted to see how quickly he could teach his friend and other non-techies how to write code. □

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U.S. approves Japan entry into TPP trade talks



In this Thursday, March 14, 2013 photo, a protester holds a sign reading "We oppose Japan to join the TPP negotiation talks" during a rally against the Trans-Pacific Partnership in Tokyo.

Associated Press

MATTHEW PENNINGTON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Friday approved Japan's entry into negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a critical step for Tokyo's inclusion in a regional trade pact that underpins the Obama administration's efforts to boost exports to Asia.

Acting U.S. Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis said in a statement that the U.S. and Japan have agreed on robust actions in the automotive and insurance sectors, as well as other non-tariff measures — key areas of U.S. concern. But they will need to hold further negotiations in parallel with the TPP talks to further iron out their differences.

Japan's admission into the TPP negotiations still requires approval from the other 10 nations involved, and "the completion of our respective domestic processes," the statement said.

U.S. lawmakers quickly insisted that Japan lift barriers to U.S. exports. Michigan Republican Rep. Dave Camp, chairman of the

powerful House Ways and Means Committee, said he would not endorse Japan's participation without assurances it wouldn't diminish the scope of the negotiations or delay the goal of concluding the negotiations this year — already viewed as a tough deadline.

Providing the other nations endorse Japan's participation, Friday's announcement could pave the way for it to join the next round of TPP negotiations in July. The pact aims to reduce duties on a wide range of goods and services and ease regulatory and other non-tariff barriers to trade. Marantis told reporters Japan's entry into the pact will help promote it as "the most promising pathway to achieving a free-trade area in the Asia-Pacific."

Japan is the world's third-largest economy, and the U.S. aside, its GDP exceeds the combined total of the other participating nations: Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Mexico, Vietnam, Chile, New Zealand, Brunei, Singapore and Peru. If Japan is admitted, the TPP countries would account for nearly 40 percent of global

GDP and about one-third of all world trade. China, the world's second-largest economy, is not taking part.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced his country's intent to join TPP just a month ago as part of efforts to revive a long-slumbering economy. But he still faces considerable domestic opposition to the pact, not least from Japan's heavily subsidized farmers, who are a traditional bastion of support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

There has also been grumbling in the U.S. Congress and among auto producers, with critics saying that Japan exports 120 automobiles to the U.S. for every American vehicle sold to Japan, and that an undervalued yen is giving an unfair advantage to Japanese producers.

In a sign of progress, Friday's statement said that Japan has agreed to more than double the number of motor vehicles eligible for preferential imports.

Reaction from lawmakers to the administration's announcement was mixed. □



This Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013, shows the BlackBerry Z10 in Toronto.
Associated Press

RIM seeks probe into report on BlackBerry returns

ROB GILLIES,

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The maker of the BlackBerry said Friday that it wants U.S. and Canadian regulators to investigate a "false and misleading" report by a financial analyst that claims the company's new smartphone is being returned in unusually high numbers. Thorsten Heins, the CEO of Research In Motion Ltd., said returns of the new BlackBerry Z10 are in line with industry norms. In a statement Friday, Heins said Thursday's report from research and investment firm Detwiler Fenton has to be challenged because it is either a complete misreading of the data or a willful manipulation.

"The data we have collected from our retail and carrier partners demonstrates that customers are satisfied with their devices," Heins said.

Anne Buckley, general counsel and chief compliance officer with Detwiler Fenton, said the firm is confident in its research methodology and welcomed any regulatory inquiry.

The BlackBerry, pioneered in 1999, had been the dominant smartphone for on-the-go business people and other consumers before the iPhone debuted in 2007 and showed that phones can handle much more than email and phone calls. After numer-

ous delays, RIM is attempting a comeback with phones running its new BlackBerry 10 system. The Z10 is the first of those devices.

The Detwiler Fenton report says "key retail partners have seen a significant increase in Z10 returns to the point where, in several cases, returns are now exceeding sales, a phenomenon we have never seen before." It says the biggest customer complaints are the "unintuitive nature of the user interface, the maps app, and the lack of apps."

Buckley provided a copy of the report to The Associated Press.

The version sent does not contain the name of the analyst who wrote it.

"Detwiler Fenton is not the only research provider publishing similar reports regarding customer reactions, sales, and returns of the BlackBerry Z10," Buckley said in a statement. She also said that neither the research analyst nor any officer or director of Detwiler Fenton has any financial interest in RIM.

RIM's stock fell nearly 8 percent on Thursday, after the report came out. The stock is up 12 cents, or nearly 1 percent, to \$13.67 in mid-day trading Friday.

Verizon Wireless, the largest wireless carrier in the U.S., also refuted the claim of a large number of returns. □

U.S. declines to label China a currency manipulator

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has declined to label China a currency manipulator, although it said China's currency remains significantly undervalued.

Friday's decision came in a twice-a-year U.S. Treasury report on whether any nations are manipulating their currencies to gain trade advantages.

The report noted that China has allowed its currency, the renminbi, to rise in value by 10 percent against the dollar since June 2010 and even more when inflation is taken into account. But the report said the currency needs to be allowed to strengthen further.

The report also cautioned Japan about its currency policies. Japan's central bank has just launched a new effort to bolster the country's economy.

That effort has weakened the value of the Japanese

yen and could widen the U.S.-Japan trade gap. U.S. manufacturers have long contended that China is manipulating its currency to gain trade advantages, and they recently increased their criticism of Japan's policies.

A weaker Chinese renminbi and a weaker Japanese yen make goods from those two countries cheaper for American consumers and U.S. goods more expensive in those foreign markets.

"The Alliance for American Manufacturing continues to believe that countries like China and Japan will only take the U.S. government seriously if words are backed by action," said Scott Paul, president of the trade group.

He called on Congress to pass pending legislation that would toughen economic sanctions on countries that manipulate their currencies for trade purposes. □

EU leaders to discuss fight against tax evasion

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's 27 leaders will discuss stepping up the fight against tax evasion at their next summit in May. European Council President Herman van Rompuy said Friday that tax evasion costs the bloc about 1 trillion euros (\$1.3 trillion) in lost revenues, creating "a serious problem for countries that need resources to restore sound public finances."

Van Rompuy, who chairs the leaders' summits, says the initiative aims at "seizing the increased political momentum to address the issue."

The publication of details of many wealthy people's offshore bank accounts by several international media outlets this month put a spotlight back on the issue. Luxembourg this week also gave in to internation-

al pressure and said it will help EU countries fight tax cheats, making Austria the EU's only hold-out.

Late Friday in Dublin, the finance ministers of six countries — Germany, Spain, France, Italy, the U.K. and Poland — said they would try to push the fight against tax evasion forward by agreeing to automatically exchange information with each other.

"Nobody can deny that bank secrecy is outdated," said French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici.

The six called on other countries, both in the European Union and outside it, to join in the cooperative effort.

In times of austerity, said British Chancellor George Osborne, "There is a real sense of unfairness if people are avoiding their taxes." □



A board on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange show the closing number for the S&P 500 Index, Thursday, April 11, 2013. U.S. stocks are closing higher for the fourth day in a row with a strong showing by retailers.

Associated Press

Stocks end a four-day advance as energy slides

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A four-day surge in the stock market came to an end on Friday as falling commodity prices brought down energy and mining companies. Signs of a slowing economy rattled commodity markets. The price of crude oil dropped 2 percent to \$91 a barrel as weak U.S. economic reports followed forecasts for weaker oil demand.

Gold plunged \$64 to \$1,501 an ounce, reaching its lowest level since July 2011. One trigger for the latest plunge was a government report that U.S. wholesale prices fell the most in 10 months in March. Traders tend to sell gold when inflation wanes. Traders also pushed gold prices lower on reports that Cyprus may sell some of its gold reserves, possibly prompting other weak European countries like Italy and Spain to do the same.

Compared to commodities markets, the stock market looked stable. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped just 0.08 of a point to close at 14,865.05. The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 4.52 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,588.85.

The two major indexes finished the week with strong

gains: The Dow rose 2.1 percent, the S&P 500 rose 2.3 percent.

David Joy, the chief market strategist for Ameriprise Financial, said it's as if the stock market is telling a different story from the bond and commodity markets. Copper and other industrial metals slid along with gold on Friday, while Treasury yields sank near their lows for the year. He said both imply traders in those markets are more worried about a slowdown.

"It gives me pause," Joy said. "Commodities and bonds are telling stock investors: don't be in such a hurry to say the U.S. economy is in great shape."

The sharp drop in gold futures tugged down mining companies. Barrick Gold lost 8 percent to \$22.62, Newmont Mining fell 6 percent to \$36.37 and Freeport-McMoRan 3 percent to \$31.92. Materials and energy stocks fell the most of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500, 1.5 percent and 1.3 percent.

The Nasdaq composite dropped 5.21 points to 3,289, a fall of 0.2 percent. A handful of reports out Friday heightened concerns about the economy's health. Sales at U.S. retailers fell in March and companies restocked their shelves

at a much slower pace in February than in the month before. That's usually a sign that companies expect weaker spending from consumers and businesses. A measure of consumer sentiment from the University of Michigan also slumped. The stock market has held up well despite a string of recent weak economic reports. That resilience has "left a lot of investors scratching their heads," said Lawrence Creatura, a fund manager at Federated Investors.

This earnings season will likely determine which direction the market takes, Creatura said. Next week, when Bank of America, Google and other big names turn in their quarterly results, could make the difference.

Wells Fargo reported stronger quarterly profits on Friday but its revenue fell short of Wall Street's forecasts. The bank's stock lost 1 percent to \$37.21.

The weaker economic reports pushed traders into the safety of Treasurys, sending yield near their lows for the year. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note dropped to 1.72 percent from 1.79 percent late Thursday. That's close to its low point of the year, 1.69 percent, reached April 5. □

Mutts



6 Chix



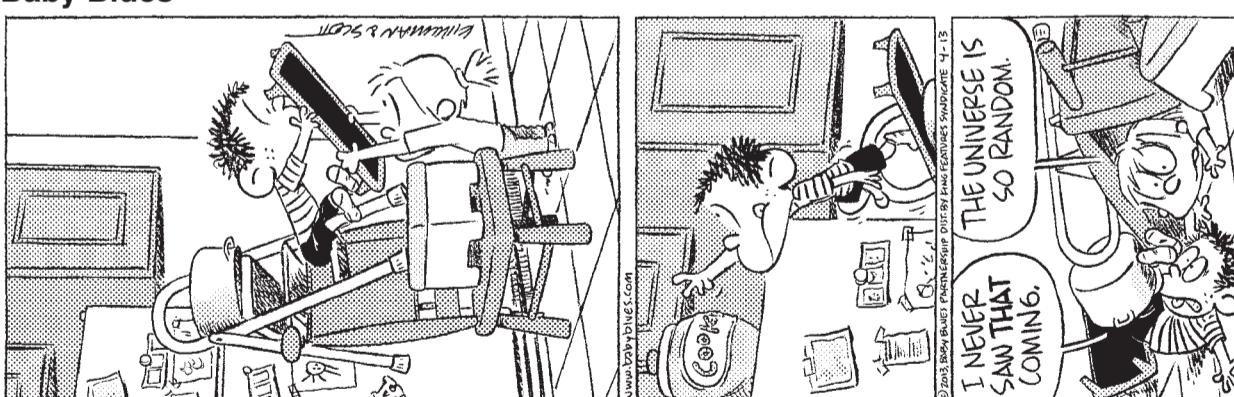
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3	7			1								
9					6							
	3	5										
6	2		4									
	3			5								
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

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4/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	4	7	9	5	6	8	3	2				
6	3	5	1	2	8	4	7	9				
2	8	9	3	7	4	6	1	5				
9	6	4	2	1	3	5	8	7				
7	1	3	8	4	5	2	9	6				
8	5	2	6	9	7	3	4	1				
5	7	6	4	3	1	9	2	8				
4	9	8	7	6	2	1	5	3				
3	2	1	5	8	9	7	6	4				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 4/13/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

Y	E	T	A	D	D	S	I	L	T				
U	P	O	N			L	E	A	V				
L	I	N	E			L	A	N	S				
C	E	A	S	E	L	S	E	S	S				
O	C	T	E	T	S	P	A	R	S	O			
C	H	A	S	E	U	I	T	E	F	O			
C	O	L	T		P	A	M	L	S	S			
U	S	E	A	S	I	L	S	G	E	S			
R	E	S	C	I	N	D	S	M	O	A			
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C	A	L	F										
K	N	E	E										
S	P	E	C										

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4 Merchants
5 Wide gulf
6 Table supports
7 Soft cheese
8 Nest noise
9 Stein or Stiller
10 Boston beans
11 Work dough
12 Close-at-hand
13 Down; make quieter
14 Had debts
15 One of Santa's little helpers
16 Exposed
17 Large farms
18 Late Bonbeck
19 Heavy book
20 Tavern
21 Church bench
22 Grieving wife
23 Dwelling
24 Egg yolk
25 Green citrus
26 Large or thick
27 Newspaper stand, often
28 Late Bonbeck
29 Heavy book
30 Bench boards
31 Charles and Liotta
32 Uncanny
33 Lively horse
34 And not
35 Church bench
36 Copper or tin
37 Rooster's mate
38 Refuse an invitation
39 Lost vital fluid
40 Actor Sandler
41 Clenched hand
42 Mediterranean and Adriatic
43 Italy's dollar before the euro
44 Chatterbox
45 Young hoodlums
46 Hit as a fly
47 Ring of light over a saint
48 Uncanny
49 Boulders
50 Young hoodlums
51 Mediterranean and Adriatic
52 Feathery scarf
53 Actor Sandler
54 Clenched hand
55 Italy's dollar before the euro
56 TV actor's award
57 Mediterranean and Adriatic
58 Feathery scarf

Brits, Americans feud over world's smallest park

TERRENCE PETTY

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — The British and the Americans are quarreling — tongue in cheek — over territory again, this time over who has the world's smallest park.

One, in Portland, Oregon, is essentially a concrete planter, two feet (0.6 meters) in diameter, with soil and some vegetation, and the Guinness Book of World Records says it's the smallest. The other is about 5,000 miles (8,050 kilometers) away, in England. They don't claim to have a physically smaller park — theirs is 15 feet (4.5 meters) by 30 feet (9 meters). But they dispute whether Portland's is a park at all.

What started as two Brits' stunt to drum up publicity for a charity run at their park sparked some cross-pond banter. One online commenter wrote, "If that's a park then my window box should take the title." Someone who said they were from Portland replied, "Yes, but our park has leprechauns. Does yours?"

Leprechauns? That's right. The faux feud has helped unearth the curious story of a Portland newspaper columnist's quest to get the park declared the smallest and his claim that it was home to leprechauns.

The tale goes back to 1946, when Dick Fagan returned



Mill Ends Park sports a myriad of colorful decorations in Portland, Ore., Thursday, April 11, 2013.

Associated Press

from World War II. From his office at the Oregon Journal newspaper, he could see a hole in the street where a light post was supposed to be erected. Fagan got tired of looking at the hole and planted flowers in it.

An Irishman with a vivid imagination, Fagan wrote about the park in his columns — spinning tales about leprechauns who lived there. Somehow, Guinness proclaimed Mill Ends Park the world's smallest park in 1971.

Jamie Panas, the record-keeper's spokeswoman, said she didn't know how that determination was made. But she said the entry in the Guinness database reads, in part: "It was designated as a city park on 17 March 1948 at the behest of the city journalist Dick Fagan (USA) for snail races and as a colony for

leprechauns. " Snail races? That's right. Snail races.

Over the years, Portland has been kind to the tiny park, giving it equal care as that afforded to the 200 or so normal-size parks scattered around the city.



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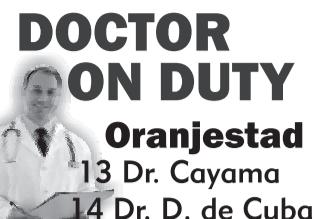
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Report: Global warming didn't cause big U.S. drought

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Last year's huge drought was a freak of nature that wasn't caused by man-made global warming, a new federal science study finds. Scientists say the lack of moisture usually pushed up from the Gulf of Mexico was the main reason for the drought in the American heartland.

Thursday's report by dozens of scientists from five different federal agencies looked into why forecasters didn't see the drought coming. The researchers concluded that it was so unusual and unpredictable that it couldn't have been forecast.

"This is one of those events that comes along once every couple hundreds of years," said lead author Martin Hoerling, a research meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Climate change was not a significant part, if any, of



In this Aug. 16, 2012 file photo, drought-damaged corn is seen in a field near Nickerson, Neb.

Associated Press

the event."

Researchers focused on six states — Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri and Iowa — but the drought spread much farther and eventually included nearly two-thirds of the Lower 48 states. For the six states, the drought was the worst four-month period for lack of rainfall since records started being kept in 1895,

Hoerling said.

He said the jet stream that draws moisture north from the Gulf was stuck unusually north in Canada. Other scientists have linked recent changes in the jet stream to shrinking Arctic sea ice, but Hoerling and study co-author Richard Seager of Columbia University said those global warming connections are not

valid.

Hoerling used computer simulations to see if he could replicate the drought using man-made global warming conditions. He couldn't. So that means it was a random event, he said.

Using similar methods, Hoerling has been able to attribute increasing droughts in the Mediterranean Sea region to climate change and found that greenhouse gases could be linked to a small portion of the 2011 Texas heat wave.

Another scientist though, blasted the report.

Kevin Trenberth, climate analysis chief at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, a federally funded university-run research center, said the report didn't take into account the lack of snowfall in the Rockies the previous winter and how that affected overall moisture in the air.

Nor did the study look at the how global warming

exacerbated the high pressure system that kept the jet stream north and the rainfall away, he said.

"This was natural variability exacerbated by global warming," Trenberth said in an email. "That is true of all such events from the Russian heat wave of 2010, to the drought and heat waves in Australia."

Hoerling noted that in the past 20 years, the world is seeing more La Ninas, the occasional cooling of the central Pacific Ocean that is the flip side of El Nino. Hoerling said that factor, not part of global warming but part of a natural cycle, increases the chances of such droughts.

Some regions should see more droughts as the world warms because of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, he said. But the six state area isn't expected to get an increase of droughts from global warming — unlike parts of the Southwest — Hoerling said. □

190M-year-old dino bones shed light on development

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The latest fossilized dinosaur embryos unearthed in China are providing scientists with the best glimpse yet into the development of the ancient creatures.

The 190-million-year-old bones belonged to *Lufengosaurus*, a long-necked, plant-eating dinosaur known for its gigantic size, with adults reaching 30 feet (9 meters) long.

A detailed look at more than 200 bones from 20 individual animals at various stages of development revealed they grew much

more rapidly inside the egg than other dinosaurs and flexed their muscles in much the same way as birds and humans.

While not a complete surprise, "we are thrilled that we could document this for the first time for an extinct animal," said University of Toronto paleontologist Robert Reisz, who led an international team that excavated the remains in southwestern China.

The embryos were the same age as a separate set of fossils that Reisz reported about in 2005 and were hailed at the time as the oldest dinosaur em-



This image released by the University of Toronto shows a close-up of embryonic humerus, as it is preserved in the sediments.

Associated Press

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bryos ever found. The two types of dinosaurs, which roamed during the early Jurassic age, were close relatives. The latest discovery was published in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*. The cache of bones was uncovered three years ago, but it has

taken this long to analyze them — not an unusual lag time for dinosaur finds.

In the earlier discovery in South Africa, the embryos were curled up inside the eggs and scientists were not allowed to remove the skeletons. The new collection contained bones that

were scattered, letting researchers examine them in finer detail.

The latest embryos were not in as pristine condition as the previous find, noted University of Maryland paleontologist Thomas Holtz, who was not part of the discovery team. □

Groundbreaking improv comic Jonathan Winters dies

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jonathan Winters, the cherub-faced comedian whose breakneck improvisations and misfit characters inspired the likes of Robin Williams and Jim Carrey, has died. He was 87.

The Ohio native died Thursday evening at his Montecito, California, home of natural causes, said Joe Petro III, a longtime friend. He was surrounded by family and friends.

Winters was a pioneer of improvisational standup comedy, with an exceptional gift for mimicry, a grab bag of eccentric personalities and a bottomless reservoir of creative energy. Facial contortions, sound effects, tall tales — all could be used in a matter of seconds to get a laugh.

"Jonathan Winters was the worthy custodian of a sparkling and childish comedic genius. He did God's work. I was lucky to know him," Carrey tweeted on Friday. On Jack Paar's television show in 1964, Winters was handed a foot-long stick and he swiftly became a fisherman, violinist, lion tamer, canoeist, U.N. diplomat, bullfighter, flutist, delusional psychiatric patient, British headmaster and Bing Crosby's golf club.

"As a kid, I always wanted to be lots of things," he told U.S. News & World Report in 1988. "I was a Walter Mitty type. I wanted to be in the French Foreign Legion, a detective, a doctor, a test pilot with a scarf, a fisherman who hauled in a tremendous marlin after a 12-hour fight."

The humor most often was based in reality — his characters Maude Frickert and Elwood P. Suggins, for example, were based on people Winters knew growing up in Ohio.

A devotee of Groucho Marx and Laurel and Hardy, Winters and his free-for-all brand of humor inspired Johnny Carson, Billy Crystal, Tracey Ullman and Lily Tomlin, among many others. But Williams and Car-

rey are his best-known followers.

"First he was my idol, then he was my mentor and amazing friend. I'll miss him huge. He was my Comedy Buddha. Long live the Buddha," Williams said in a statement Friday.

Williams helped introduce Winters to new fans in 1981 as the son of Williams' goofball alien and his earthling wife in the final season of ABC's "Mork and Mindy." The two often strayed from the script.

"The best stuff was before the cameras were on, when he was open and free to create," Williams once said. "Jonathan would just blow the doors off."

Carson, meanwhile, lifted Winters' Maude Frickert character almost intact for the long-running Aunt Blabby character he portrayed on "The Tonight Show."

"Beyond funny. He invented a new category of comedic genius," comedian Albert Brooks tweeted Friday.

In other Twitter posts, Richard Lewis called Winters "the greatest improvisational comedian of all time" and Roseanne Barr added "a genius has vacated this realm."

Winters' only Emmy was for best-supporting actor for playing Randy Quaid's father in the sitcom "Davis Rules" (1991). He was nominated again in 2003 as outstanding guest actor in a comedy series for an appearance on "Life With Bonnie."

He also won two Grammys: One for his work on "The Little Prince" album in 1975 and another for his "Crank Calls" comedy album in 1996.

"I knew him for 55 years and he's always been silly, every moment of his life," veteran announcer Gary Owens, who collaborated with Winters on four comedy albums, recalled warmly Friday in an interview with the AP.

He spoke by phone with him just two days ago, Owens said, and although frail, Winters still broke into



This July 9, 2012 file photo shows Jonathan Winters at the kick-off of The Last 70mm Film Festival Presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

a routine in which he was being pecked in the head by a pet peregrine falcon he claimed to keep by his bed.

Winters received the Kennedy Center's second Mark Twain Prize for Humor in 1999, a year after Richard Pryor.

In later years, he was sought out for his changing voice, and he contributed to numerous cartoons and animated films. □



This undated file image shows comedian and actor Jonathan Winters.

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Biden lunches with 'Veep' star Julia Louis-Dreyfus

JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Watch out, Joe Biden. The other vice president is in the house.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who plays Vice President Selina Meyer on the HBO comedy "Veep," came to the White House on Friday to have lunch with Biden. While in the West Wing, Louis-Dreyfus took the opportunity to try out the vice president's desk — the real one, not the replica she uses on the set.

"I surprised him by sitting at his desk, so he thought he'd just ask my advice on various briefs he had to deal with," Louis-Dreyfus said in an

audio clip posted to the White House website. "I was happy to give him my advice, which he paid no



This Oct. 4, 2011 handout photo provided by HBO shows actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus star of the HBO series "Veep".

Associated Press

attention to whatsoever." "It's a day I'll never forget,"

she added.

Her performance as an ambitious but largely powerless No. 2 hasn't gone unnoticed by Biden.

After the former "Seinfeld" star won an Emmy award for her performance in the first season of "Veep," Biden called her to offer his congratulations, the vice president's office said.

In 2008, when then-Sen. Biden and President Barack Obama were running for office, Biden and Louis-Dreyfus appeared together on NBC's "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," where Biden plunged the actress into the pool of a dunk tank to raise money for breast cancer. The two then shared a soggy smooch through the bars of the dunk tank.

The second season of "Veep" starts Sunday. □

More Kardashian divorce settlement talks scheduled

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Reality show star Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries are getting another chance to settle their divorce case, and this time a judge wants the professional basketball player to attend.

Humphries did not appear for settlement talks Friday, and a Superior Court judge set another hearing for April 19 in Los Angeles. The judge also set a hearing for whether Humphries should be fined for not appearing at the mandatory settlement hearing.

Humphries' lawyers said no settlement was reached and that a trial is still scheduled for May 6.

Humphries wants the marriage annulled based on his allegations that it was fraudulent. Kardashian wants a traditional divorce, which would be her second.

She filed for divorce in October 2011 after 72 days of



TV personality Kim Kardashian leaves Los Angeles County Superior Court after a hearing in her divorce from Kris Humphries, Friday, April 12, 2013.

Associated Press

marriage.

Humphries has not yet laid out the specifics to support his fraud claim, but his former attorney has said Humphries wants an annulment because of his belief that Kardashian only married him because of her reality show.

Kardashian and her lawyer have denied the accusation. The "Keeping Up With

the Kardashians" star was flanked by law enforcement as she left the courthouse shortly around noon. "I always wanted to be a juror," she joked before taking her seat.

Kardashian is expecting a child with boyfriend Kanye West later this year. She was not accompanied by West or any members of her famous family. □

Streep to narrate Ephron 'Heartburn' audiobook

NEW YORK (AP) — Meryl Streep's voice will be heard on a special project this summer: the first audiobook edition of the late Nora Ephron's "Heartburn."

Random House Audio announced Friday that Streep will narrate Ephron's autobiographical novel based on her marriage to journalist Carl Bernstein, first published in 1983. The Oscar-winning actress starred in the film version, which came out three years later.

Streep was a close friend of Ephron, who died last year. They worked on several movies together. The audiobook is scheduled for July.

Audio editions are planned for other Ephron books, including the essay collections "Wallflower at the Orgy" and "Crazy Salad." The narrators haven't been chosen. □



In this Nov. 26, 2012, file photo, rap mogul and Brooklyn Nets minority owner Jay-Z and his wife, Beyoncé, watch an NBA basketball game between the Nets and the New York Knicks at Barclays Center in New York.

Associated Press

Jay-Z applies for certification as baseball agent

NEW YORK (AP) — Jay-Z is applying to become an agent for Major League Baseball players.

The Major League Baseball Players Association said Friday the rapper's application to be certified was received a day earlier.

Jay-Z's Roc Nation Sports and CAA Sports announced last week they were partnering in the agency business, and New York Yankees second

baseman Robinson Cano was the first client. CAA's Brodie Van Wagenen replaced Scott Boras as Cano's listed agent.

Jay-Z, whose given name is Shawn Carter, is in the process of selling his minority share of the Brooklyn Nets.

Had he kept his share with the NBA club he might have faced potential problems in becoming certified by the MLBPA. □

Yipes, It's Congress on the move



Gail Collins
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Wow, there's a lot going on in Washington! Budgets are flying all over the place. The Senate might actually start voting on a gun bill Thursday. And immigration reform has now gotten so far that the House of Representatives has its own bipartisan Gang of Eight working on it.

Personally, I think they just wanted to have a gang.

"It's a good day for guns and immigration, and who knows what tomorrow may bring," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., a member of the Senate bipartisan Gang of Eight on immigration reform. It's like a little legislative West Side Story in Congress these days, minus the dancing.

But the point is that there's movement. It was only days ago that things were so slow that we were forced to devote our serious thinking time to the reports from South America that overgrown white ferrets are being sold to people as toy poodles. This is something I believe we can rally against in a bipartisan manner. First off the block came a gun agreement, announced Wednesday by two conservative senators who mentioned repeatedly that they were themselves proud weapons owners. This is, of course, the rule for these kinds of events. If they really do have a full-fledged debate, somebody is for sure going to leap up and yell: "I have four bazookas!"

Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Pat Toomey, R-Pa., held a news conference to describe their plan to close loopholes in gun purchase background checks. The negotiations actually involved a slightly larger number of people, including Schumer. But, according to a report in Roll Call, the Capitol Hill newspaper, Toomey refused to speak on the same podium with the National Rifle Association nemesis.

"Toomey and Manchin did great work on this. They belonged out front. My job was to work behind the scenes. I'm perfectly happy," said Schumer, who has been laboring on this issue for about 9 million years. It isn't every day you see the senator from New York leap out of the way of a major televised news confer-

ence. Kudos.

If the agreement as described actually passes, it would mean a real improvement – expanding background checks so people who buy guns on the Internet or at gun shows are screened for criminal records and serious mental illness.

You may remember Manchin as the guy who seemed, after the Newtown massacre, to be calling for an assault weapons ban, then scurried away. Also, he was the one who ran a campaign ad showing him plugging a bullet through the heart of a piece of climate change legislation. Also, he still won't say whether he voted for Barack Obama last year. But now we ought to give him a hand – quickly, before he breaks our hearts.

Which might happen any moment. During their news conference, Manchin and Toomey said their bill could be a step toward new rules on carrying concealed weapons, in which a permit from the state with the most lax gun laws trumps the stricter laws in, say, Times Square. If an amendment like that gets stuck on the bill in the Senate, Schumer acknowledged, "the bad it would do would equalize the good." But that's several endless stretches of procedural confusion away. First, there's got to be a vote on whether to take up gun legislation in the Senate at all. Miraculously, a bunch of Republican senators have announced they do not want to simply squash any consideration of the matter by staging a filibuster.

"No one really expected that we wouldn't get to a vote on this. There's going to be a debate on this. Which is a good thing," said Sen. James Risch of Idaho on CBS. He was actually one of the senators vowing to stop a debate, but he's apparently sort of evolving.

Did I mention that Risch is from Idaho? The governor of Idaho is Butch Otter. He has nothing to do with this discussion. I just like writing "Gov. Butch Otter" as often as possible.

This is going to be crunchtime, citizens. Do you root for the bipartisan gun bill or worry about the National Rifle Association turning it into something that makes the situation worse? Also, would you feel more confident about immigration reform's chances if the House had a Gang of 12?

As if we didn't have enough on our plates, this week's Times Magazine has a story by Jonathan Van Meter announcing that former Rep. Anthony Weiner is seriously thinking about running for mayor of New York City. This year!

That one I'm pretty confident we can handle. The citizens of New York just have to decide whether to forgive an elected official who tweeted pictures of his crotch to women he had never actually met. We've had bigger challenges. Maybe we can form a committee. □



The Arab Quarter Century



Thomas L. Friedman
© 2013 New York Times News Service

I guess it's official now: The term "Arab Spring" has to be retired. There is nothing springlike going on. The broader, but still vaguely hopeful, "Arab Awakening" also no longer seems valid, given all that has been awakened. And so the strategist Anthony Cordesman is probably right when he argues it's best we now speak of the "Arab Decade" or the "Arab Quarter Century" – a long period of infrastate and intraregional instability, in which a struggle for both the future of Islam and the future of the individual Arab nations blend together into a "clash within a civilization."

The ending: To be determined. When the Arab Spring first emerged, the easy analogy was the fall of the Berlin Wall. It appears that the right analogy is a different central European event – the Thirty Years' War in the 17th century – an awful mix of religious and political conflict, which eventually produced a new state order.

Some will say: "I told you so. You never should have hoped for this Arab Spring." Nonsense. The corrupt autocracies that gave us the previous 50 years of "stability" were just slow-motion disasters. Read the U.N.'s 2002 Arab Human Development Report about what deficits of freedom, women's empowerment and knowledge did to Arab peoples over the last 50 years. Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen and Syria are not falling apart today because their leaders were toppled. Their leaders were toppled because for too many years they failed

too many of their people. Half the women in Egypt still can't read. That's what the stability of the last 50 years bought.

Also, "we" did not unleash the Arab Spring, and "we" could not have stopped it. These uprisings began with fearless, authentic quests for dignity by Arab youths, seeking the tools and freedom to realize their full potential in a world where they could see how everyone else was living. But no sooner did they blow the lids off their societies, seeking governments grounded in real citizenship, than they found themselves competing with other aspirations set loose – aspirations to be more Islamist, more sectarian or to restore the status quo ante.

Still, two things surprise me. The first is how incompetent the Muslim Brotherhood has been. In Egypt, the Brotherhood has presided over an economic death spiral and a judiciary caught up in idiocies like investigating the comedian Bassem Youssef, Egypt's Jon Stewart, for allegedly insulting President Mohammed Morsi. (See Stewart's perfect takedown of Morsi.) Every time the Brotherhood had a choice of acting in an inclusive way or seizing more power, it seized more power, depriving it now of the broad base needed to make necessary but painful economic reforms.

The second surprise? How weak the democratic opposition has been. The tragedy of the Arab center-left is a complicated story, notes Marc Lynch, a Middle East expert at George Washington University and the author of "The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East." Many of the more secular, more pro-Western Egyptian political elites who could lead new center-left parties, he said, had been "co-opted by the old regime" for its own semi-official parties and therefore "were widely discredited in the eyes of the public." That left youngsters who had never organized a party, or a grab bag of expatriates, former regime officials, Nasserites and liberal Is-

lamists, whose only shared idea was that the old regime must go. Since taking power in Egypt, "the Brotherhood has presided over economic failure and political collapse," said Lynch. "They have lost the center, they are feuding with the Salafists and they are now down to their core 25 percent of support. There is no way they should win a fair election, which is why the opposition should be running in – not boycotting – the next parliamentary elections." The old line that you have to wait on elections until a moderate civil society can be built is a proven failure. "You can't teach someone to be a great basketball player by showing them videos," he said. "They have to play – and the opposition will not become effective until they compete and lose and win again."

The old sources of stability that held this region together are gone. No iron-fisted outside powers want to occupy these countries anymore, because all you win today is a bill. No iron-fisted dictators can control these countries anymore, because their people have lost their fear. The first elected governments – led by the Muslim Brotherhood – have the wrong ideas. More Islam is not the answer. More of the Arab Human Development Report is the answer. But the democratic opposition youths don't yet have leaders to galvanize their people around that vision.

Given all this, America's least bad option is to use its economic clout to insist on democratic constitutional rules, regular elections and political openness, and to do all it can to encourage moderate opposition leaders to run for office. We should support anyone who wants to implement the Arab Human Development Report and oppose anyone who doesn't. That is the only way these societies can give birth to their only hope: a new generation of decent leaders who can ensure this "Arab Quarter Century" ends better than it began. □

Lock of baby's hair, first tooth ... breast milk?

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Strands from baby's first haircut. The first tooth. Tiny footprints sunk into clay. Some parents even tuck away the dried stump of the umbilical cord or the stick pregnancy test as a touching memento marking the milestones of their kids. The latest? Breast milk jewelry.

Few issues polarize mothers more than breast-feeding, and all things related to breast-feeding, so wearing processed breast milk around the neck or in a bracelet has ignited some passions.

The jewelry, on sale at the handmade marketplace Etsy, is definitely not for writer Ashley McCann, 34, in Naples, Fla. She nursed both her boys, 6 and 9, and loved it, but she feels some sort of gross-out line has been crossed.

"This is the most hilariously absurd trend in mommy jewelry that I have ever heard about in my life," she said. "I think it is just flat-out weird, to be honest."

In addition to finished jewelry, a search on Etsy produces sellers of breast milk soap and one offering a locket kit for the DIY inclined. A couple purveyors, both moms, said in interviews that they hit on the idea as they sought out unusual keepsakes of their special bonds with their babies during nursing.

The two wouldn't reveal their recipes for processing the milk, which is covered with a glaze or clear resin after it is plasticized or dehydrated, forming a clay-like substance that hardens over time when at least one method is used.

Prices range from \$15 for the kit, which includes various locket designs, to \$125 for a double pendant in copper bezels with a matching vintage chain.

"What a wonderful way to preserve the 'liquid gold' that we are only able to make for a certain period of time," reads the product description for the latter. "This can be passed down



This product photo released by MommyMilk shows a necklace with a charm made of breast milk, one of the items jewelry designer Allicia Mogavero offers on the handmade marketplace site Etsy.

Associated Press



This April 2013 product photo released by Brooke Photo Studio shows a heart locket housing processed breast milk.

Associated Press

for generations and what a fantastic gift to give to your child, the root of their survival."

The passing-down notion prompted more than a few jokes on BabyCenter.com when the subject first came up innocently enough in January. A poster on the site, which has an average 11 million unique views a month, said she had heard of breast milk jewelry and wondered where she could find some, said Rebecca Michals, who manages the message boards. "It may not be for everyone," Michals offers. "I think it's a matter of opinion." Oh yes. Just as attachment parenting (wearing your child, the family bed) is a matter of opinion, or



This April 2013 product photo released by Brooke Photo Studio shows a heart locket housing processed breast milk.

Associated Press

nursing in public, or those breast-feeding baby dolls of the holiday season last year.

"I actually think it's the attitude behind it," McCann said as she tried to explain her disdain. Nursing, she said, "is one of my fondest memories, and honestly I would get pregnant again to nurse another baby. But it was the relationship. There's something about plasticizing breast milk, which is just food to nurse your baby, that almost seems like some sort of weird worship of nursing." Tell that to the 20 or so people who contact Allicia Mogavero each day about the breast milk jewelry she began selling in 2007, then mostly to friends. She put her designs on Etsy about a year ago and has sold about 200 pieces, including pendants, brace-

lets, lockets and beads of breast milk alone for people to do with what they wish. She personalizes the jewelry with names in fancy script.

In all, she offers 36 items, using a five-step process to preserve a small amount of milk shipped to her as instructed. Working the milk takes about four weeks and the resin needs a week or two to dry, she said.

Mogavero, 34, in Wakefield, R.I., said sales have picked up since the jewelry arose on BabyCenter, producing dozens of posts that seem evenly split between admirers and the repulsed.

"A lot of people are repelled by breast-feeding in general, as crazy as that is. And I think anything having to do with it is probably not anything that they like. It is a body fluid, so

maybe that's why people are somewhat against it," mused Mogavero, who has shipped to the Philippines, England, Australia and Japan.

Mogavero said she has had husbands steal breast milk out of the freezer to surprise their nursing wives with one of her creations. She sells on Etsy as MommyMilk as she continues to nurse her third child, a 16-month-old girl.

Brooke Becker in Summerville, S.C., offers the breast milk kits on Etsy under the user name MilkMomBaby.

"I think initially you tell some people about it and they say, 'Oh, that's gross,'" she said. "Breast milk is pretty personal. Just sending that off to someone is a little bit of a leap for people."

That's why she decided to sell kits, including discreet lockets and a pill box design as vessels. She said she has sold about 48 kits since October.

"It's something that moms do for themselves," said Becker, 33. She has shipped jewelry to the United Kingdom and Asia. "It's more for mothers who are nursing long term, not people who just nurse a couple of months."

Victoria Cameron, 33, is nursing her 13-month-old son and pursuing a master's in social work in Minneapolis. She went on Etsy in search of mother's jewelry when she stumbled on the breast milk sellers. She was the first to post about it on a BabyCenter board for bargain hunters. The quick-fire reaction surprised her.

"At the same time people were talking about getting cremation remains made into a diamond or a rock, and that was, like, super meaningful, and then people were just like, 'Oh this breast milk thing is crazy.' It was very odd," she said. The debate has since spread on parenting blogs and social media.

In Belleville, N.J., Sharon Valcarcel, 32, nurses her 11-month-old daughter in the evenings after she returns from her job as a high school psychologist. □